# STARS STRIPES.





Marine in Romanian crash in U.S., under **NCIS** investigation

Model Heidi Klum helps designers sew up competition

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2004

50¢

# **DOD** announces newest deployments in terror war

Stateside units involved; troop levels in Iraq, Afghanistan unchanged



### STARS STRIPES COMING



On Thursday

Avignon offers heavenly views



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### ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

### World

Concorde crash: A titanium strip that fell off a Continental Airlines jumbo jet onto a Paris runway was the main cause of the deadly crash of an Air France Concorde in 2000, judicial exnerts reported Tuesday.

Meanwhile, French prosecutors sum-moned top Continental executive Gordon Bethune and other officials for questioning in the probe of the July 25, 2000, crash outside Paris that killed 113 people, a lawyer for civil parties in the case said.

Judicial officials issued a report Tuesday designed to help assess responsibility for the crash, meaning employees at Continental could face prosecution in France.

Madrid bombings: An unidentified witness recognized an alleged mastermind of the Madrid train bombings in front of a Spanish judge investigating the attacks, court officials said on Tuesday.

The witness told National Court Judge Juan del Olmo that he had seen Egyptian Rabei Osman Ahmed in a house on the outskirts of Madrid, where police suspect terrorists prepared the bombs that exploded on Madrid commuter trains, killing 191 people and injuring more than 2,000.

iban arrests: Information from a man caught in a vehicle loaded with explosives led to the arrests of two senior Taliban military commanders believed responsible for a series of terror attacks in southern Afghanistan, an official said Tuesday.

Mullah Nagyi and Mullah Oayum were active in the ousted regime's insurgency, and there was hope they could lead security forces to other top leaders, said Abdullah Laghmani, the intelligence chief in Kandahar province.

Taiwan politics: Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian took the blame for a legislative election defeat and resigned as the leader of his party Tuesday, a move that might help him be more flexible with rival China and ease gridlock in parliament.

Chen's Democratic Progressive Party and its allies were stunned when an opposition alliance - which was disorganized and beset with squabbling - won last weekend's legislative election, taking 114 of the 225 seats.

Filipino film star/candidate: Action film star and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., who refused to concede May's election, died Tuesday after suffering a stroke. He was 65.

Poe had complained of dizziness while dining with friends and employees at his suburban Manila, Philippines, film studio. He was brought late Saturday to St. Luke's Hospital, where doctors diagnosed a blood clot in his brain, and he later fell into a coma, his neurologist, Abdias Aquino, told



Court-martial in Iraqi's drowning: 1st Lt. Jack Saville, right, arrives for a pretrial hearing in his court-martial with his attorney on Tuesday at Fort Hood, Texas. Saville and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, both part of the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Carson, Colo., are accused of ordering soldiers to push two Iraqis into the Tigris River in Samarra, Iraq, in January as punishment for violating curfew. Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, drowned. Defense lawyers contend that Hassoun safely reached shore and that Army investigators failed to positively identify a body or do an autopsy. Trials for Saville and Perkins are set for next month. They face up to 29 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

reporters. He died at the hospital early Tues- swamped with potential evidence that prose-

#### States

Washington recount: Through all the counting and recounting in the closest governor's race in state history, Republican Dino Rossi has held the slimmest of margins over Democrat Christine Gregoire.

For the first time since the Nov. 2 election, it looks as though the tide could be turning. King County election officials announced Monday that they would count more than 500 ballots that were mistakenly rejected after the election - possibly enough to swing the election to Gregoire.

Rossi won the election by 261 votes, but aw that margin shrink to 42 votes after a machine recount of all 2.9 million ballots cast.

Andrea Yates appeal: Andrea Yates' capital murder convictions for drowning her children should be overturned because the state's expert witness falsely testified and Texas' insanity standard is unconstitutional, her attorneys say in an appeal.

A three-judge panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston was set to hear oral arguments Tuesday in Yates' appeal, which cites 19 errors from her 2002 trial. Yates' attorneys say she deserves a new trial. Jurors sentenced Yates to life in prison in the 2001 deaths of three of her children. She was not tried in the deaths of the other two

Michael Jackson case: Claiming they are

cutors were slow in handing over. Michael Jackson's defense attorneys next week will ask a judge to postpone the pop star's child-molestation trial, according to court documents.

The trial is scheduled to start Jan. 31 in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Earlier this month Santa Barbara authorities again searched Jackson's Neverland ranch, securing a saliva sample for DNA testing and examining the pop star's security and telephone systems.

Freighter grounding: U.S. Coast Guard officials said an oil and fuel spill from a freighter that broke in two when it ran aground off Alaska's coast probably amounted to thousands of gallons less than had been feared.

The federal government's incident commander, Capt. Ron Morris, said Monday just 41,138 gallons of bunker fuel were inside the tank directly breached when the Malaysian soybean freighter Selendang Ayu split in two Wednesday on an Unalaska Island

SARS vaccine: The National Institutes of Health is launching a human trial to test the safety of an experimental vaccine against severe acute respiratory syndrome

SARS, which was first recognized in 2002, killed 774 people worldwide before being brought under control by quarantine, patient isolation and travel restrictions

Stories and photo from wire services

### TODAY IN STRIPES

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### Correction

A headline in some of Tuesday's edition about six U.S. soldiers eing court-martialed for stripping parts from abandoned Army vehicles was incorrect. The action occurred in Kuwait.

Comics, horoscopes and advice - every day in Stars and Stripes









## Marine involved in fatal crash back in U.S.

### Immune from Romanian prosecution, embassy guard faces NCIS inquiry

BY CHARLIE COON Stars and Strines

The U.S. Marine security guard who was driving an embassy-owned vehicle that collided with a taxi in Bucharest, Romania, killing a popular Romanian musician, has been assigned to administrative duties at his battalion headquarters in Virginia

Meanwhile, military investigators traveled to Bucharest to determine if Staff Sgt Christopher R. VanGoethem, 31, should be prosecuted in the death of Teofil Peter. The 50-year-old veteran rocker was the bass player for the Romanian rock band Compact.

VanGoethem, was commander of the 461 know the perception detachment security that guards the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, was taken out of Romania shortly after the Dec. 3 accident, angering many

citizens a decision the Romanian Premier ambassador made Adrian Nastase sent a letter to President The bottom line is the Bush asking Bush to "get involved in the sosituation is being lution" to calm Romainvestigated and that nian public "outrage," perhaps by waiving VanGoethem's diplo-[VanGoethem] is not matic immunity and regoing anywhere; he's turning him to Romania, according to a at his battalion news release by the Romanian government headquarters. Romania has been a staunch ally of the Unit-Marine Maj. Matthew W. Morgan ed States in the war in 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade

spokesman at Camp Leieune, N.C. Some news accounts reported that VanGoethem is suspected of driving drunk and that he refused to submit to alcohol-analysis tests and questioning by local authorities.

"I know the perception in Romania was that he was whisked out of the country," Marine Maj. Matthew W. Morgan, a spokes man for the 4th Marine Expeditionary Bri-gade at Camp Lejeune, N.C., said in a telephone interview

"It was a decision the ambassador made

The bottom line is the situation is being investigated and that [VanGoethem] is not going anywhere; he's at his battalion head-

As a member of the administrative staff at the embassy, VanGoethem is immune from being prosecuted by Romanian au-thorities but is still answerable to the U.S. military legal system, according to a statement issued by J.D. Crouch II, the U.S. ambassador to Romania.

According to a Marine spokesman, Van-Goethem, of Iron County, Mich., and Ma-rine Security Group's Company H, voluntarily submitted to a Breathalyzer test at

in Romania was that

he was whisked out of

the country. ... It was

the scene of the Dec. 3 accident.

VanGoethem submitted to a blood test, but only after it was agreed that the test would be given by U.S. personnel, according to the spokesman. The blood sample was then taken into custody by U.S. officials VanGoethem also

gave a statement to Ronanian investigators, Morgan said.

Morgan said that VanGoethem was directed by Crouch or by another embassy official to leave Romania and return to his company headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.

VanGoethem was then transported to Marine Security Guard Battalion Headquarters in Quantico, Va., where he is perform-

ing administrative duties and is not in cus-VanGoethem was scheduled within days "to return to the U.S. as part of a normal ro-tation," Morgan said, adding that VanGoethem's family had already moved from Bu-

charest. VanGoethem was assigned to the Bucharest detail in August 2003.

In his statement, Crouch said that Van-Goethem was granted the same protection as any Romanian Embassy official work-



Friends of Teofil Peter, late bass player with the Romanian rock band "Compact," hold his picture outside the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, earlier this month. Peter died in a car crash when his taxi was hit by a car allegedly driven by a Marine, who tested positive for alcohol in a breath test after the accident. Having immunity from prosecution, the Marine left the country immediately after the accident.

ing in the United States would be granted in the same situation.

"Once all the information about the accident has been assembled, there will be a determination as to appropriate next steps concerning the Marine," Crouch said. "My government is currently reviewing

the government of Romania's request that the Marine's immunity be waived. Prime Minister Nastase sent a letter to President Bush on this issue. The White House has received the letter and is considering carefully the issues raised."

Investigators from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service went to Bucharest after the accident and are compiling evidence, re-creating the circumstances and examining the impounded vehicles.

"The NCIS is conducting their investigation and working closely with Romanian authorities," Morgan said. "[VanGoethem] is available to them whenever they wish to speak to him.

"The lead agent, however, has indicated a desire to complete initial aspects of the investigation in Romania before speaking with the Marine.'

After the investigation is finished, Morgan said, an Article 32 hearing of evidence could be held to determine whether VanGoethem should face a court-martial.

Morgan said he doubted that any legal proceedings against VanGoethem would begin until after the December holidays.

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Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael John Mefford, left, is pictured with his brother, Tech. Sgt. Mark A. Castorena, Mefford, 32, was killed Friday in a motorcycle accident in Naples, Italy. He worked as a radiologist at the Naval Hospital at the Gricignano base near Naples. A memorial service for Mefford will be held Thursday at Gricignano.

## Memorial set for sailor who died in motorcycle accident

BY SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy - There were two sides to Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Mefford: soft and soft-

"He had a great love for the helpless and the elderly." said his older brother, Air Force Tech Sgt. Mark Castorena, stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base in Wash-"He loved his family and was a caring, loving son and brother. He was very adventurous and loved life and was quite the practical jokester!'

Mefford, 32, a radiologist sta-tioned at the Navy hospital at Gricignano, was killed Friday when his motorcycle collided with a vehicle on Italian highway SS 7 in Naples. He had been wearing a helmet, officials said.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday at the chapel on Gricignano. Mefford was an experienced

motorcycle rider who loved adventure, from scuba diving to riding his bike, Castorena said. "He was the youngest of three of us brothers. So as you may imagine, he had to pull his weight being the youngest."

Mefford joined the Navy right out of high school, in keeping with the career paths of his older brothers. Each, however, picked a different branch of the service. His other brother, Richard Mefford, who joined the Marine Corps. died 16 years ago

Mike Mefford had been married for three years and divorced in January.

"Although divorced, he still had a place in his heart for his former wife, Karissa. They remained close friends throughout his tour in Iraq and Italy," Castorena said

Mefford is survived by his mother, Mona Mefford, his Father, Gordon Mefford, his stepmother Vicky Mefford, brother. Mark, and a nephew, Dominic Castorena.

Stateside funeral arrangements have not been finalized. Mefford is going to be buried in San Anto-

"He may be gone, but he left us a legacy of pride, courage and love for our country, the United States of America," Castorena



Courtesy of Dryden Flight Research Cente

The X-38 research vehicle drops away from NASA's B-52B mothership after it's released from the B-52's wing pylon in July 1999. After nearly 50 years of service with NASA, the B-52 is being retired and will be put on display at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The markings under the wing of the B-52B are a history of all the vehicles the plane has launched.

### NASA retires B-52B aircraft after nearly 50 years in air

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - After nearly 50 years of high-speed, high-altitude hauling work, the National Aeronautics and Space Administra tion's B-52B air-launch "mothership" is finally being grounded.

The tremendous aircraft — it has a 185-foot wingspan and once carried a 53,100-pound payload to 50,000 feet - has played a critical role in the development of rocket engines and NASA's space shuttles.

But Alan Brown, spokesman for NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in California, said mechanics have been salvaging parts from junked bombers and museums for years to keep the B-52B aloft, and the center simply does not have the finances or the need to continue those repairs.

"We really hate to see it retire," he said. "To see that thing still flying was incredible, when you knew it had been flying back in the 1950s. It has bridged so many eras here.

The plane's last flight was in November, when it carried the X-43A experimental scramjet engine on that machine's 7,000 mph, record-setting flight. Other experiments included the X-15 rocket plane, the precursor to NASA's early manned spacecraft

Built in 1955, the aircraft was the 10th B-52 ever produced, but never dropped a single bomb, Brown said. Air Force officials loaned the plane to NASA in 1959 for space travel research, and will put the machine on permanent display at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., following Friday's handover.

The silver ship has seen more than 20 pilots over the last half-century but has been flown less than 2,500 hours, the least of any of the B-52s. Brown said

NASA does have a modified B-52H that can conduct some air launch experiments in the future, but Brown said those will be few and far between. The newer aircraft doesn't have the strength or other payload modifications of the B-52B, and less expensive computer programs and smaller models will provide most of the data for future scientific research

What those new devices won't have. Brown said, is the impressive history of the B-52B. "It has been so identified with us for so many years," he said. "It really is an amazing,

historic aircraft. E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

## Holiday happiness for all ages

### Dexheim students share Christmas cheer with German senior citizens

By JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Strings

OPPENHEIM, Germany - It didn't take a grasp of the German language to bake cookies, years of experience to decorate a Christmas tree, or a sense of proper customs to sing carols.

Children from Child and Youth Services at Dexheim realized the spirit of Christmas is a universal language when they visited about 60 elderly Germans on Monday evening at a home in Oppenheim.

The visit included dancing, singing, tree decorating and gift bag treats given by 16 community children

During the tree decorating, children brought ornaments to the senior citizens and then helped them to the tree to decorate together

Janay Flowers, 15, an eighth-grader at the Wiesbaden American Middle School, asked three senior citizens to accompany her to the Christmas tree to decorate it.

"I helped put on a gold dove, an angel and a flower," she said, "I kind of got to talk to one of the ladies. I told her 'Merry Christmas' and then she laughed

Dexheim children have been visiting the Oppenheim senior citizen home for 20 years and have brought Santa Claus with them for the last four years.

Esther Herrmann, director of events for the senior citizens, said the visit lifts the spirits of the residents.

"When they have the opportunity to see young people, how they're growing up, it gives them some hope," Herrmann said. 'It's a change that helps them forget their sickness or handicaps just for this evening."

Many of the seniors smiled in their seats or wheelchairs, while others sipped warm spiced wine during the final perfor-mance of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Rein-



Above: Yemimah Israel, 13, watches Monday as a resident of an Oppenheim, Germany, senior citizen home hangs an ornament on a tree. Yemimah and other kids from the Dexheim military community visited the home and helped the residents decorate the tree, passed out presents and entertained them with song and dance. Below: Kashun Williams, 13, decorates the tree with another resident.

Kenneth Barnett, 9, said being in the final show was his favorite part of the visit and he was glad he could bring some holiday cheer to the German home.

Anneliese Wessler, a resident of the home said American children have been coming for so long that it almost seems like a family tradition. In fact, she said, it would be nice to see the children more

Linda Traynham, who organized the event through youth services along with the Area Support Team, said she is looking into organizing more events during school breaks throughout the year.

At the end of the show, Herrmann offered drinks and sweet treats to the children

Some of the senior citizens wished the children a final happy holidays in Ger-man, while the children said Danke schön — thank you — in return.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoi@mail.estripes.osd.mil



#### Donations to help 1st ID troops, families Stars and Stripes sion and the Jewish Institute iday reception on Friday. Baporting soldiers down in Iraq

Two nonprofit organizations presented the 1st Infantry Division with checks on Friday totaling more than \$60,000 for families, just in time for the holidays

The money, from the Society of the First Infantry Divi-Airman dies from injuries

RAF LAKENHEATH, England - A U.S.

airman stationed at RAF Lakenheath died

Sunday at the Addenbrookes Hospital in

Cambridge from injuries she received in

an automobile accident the week before.

Airman 1st Class Crystal R. Kopecky

was assigned to the 48th Medical Opera

tions Squadron, where she was a medical

technician in the obstetrics ward. She had

been assigned to RAF Lakenheath since

dent on the A1065 on Dec. 4.

She was injured in a single-vehicle acci-

according to an Air Force news release

for National Security Affairs. will be distributed to 392 families in the 1st Infantry Division and 37 families of division soldiers wounded in Iraq who are now in the United States for medical treatment, according to Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste in remarks at the division's hol-

were not complete

tiste was on rest and recuperation leave from Iraq and attended the reception Friday in Würzburg.

"This is great," Batiste said. There is no place I'd rather be right now (than) with the great families of Task Force Victory who have been sup-

for the last 11 or 12 months. "(The donations will) help them make ends meet. In the holiday season, there are lots of demands on the pocketbook, and families definitely are appreciative of this money to make it all happen during the

Christmas. and terrorism-related material

### service for later this week, but details Task force has new leader

German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops recently assumed command of the multinational anti-terrorism Task Force 150 during a ceremony at the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, according to a Navy news release

The task force, which currently has eight ships from six nations, operates under the 5th Fleet in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden to counter the movement of terror-

Base officials are planning a memorial through the region. Task force ships have participated in ex-

ercises with many of the region's nations. including Yemen, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, the release stated. Most recently, the task force's ships have been involved in humanitarian, rath-

er than counterterror, missions. Two French ships have assisted grounded vessels, and the USS The Sullivans assisted a dhow that had been adrift for more than

Hoops assumed command from Royal Navy Commodore Tom Cunningham, according to the release.

From staff reports

## **Pentagon announces mid-'05 rotations for war**

BY PATRICK DICKSON Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon has decided on its troop rotation plans for mid-2005, which will keep force levels at the same strength for operations in Iraq

and Afghanistan. There are roughly 138,000 troops in Iraq and 18,000 in Afghanistan: another 12,000 are being sent to Iraq to provide secu-

rity for elections. Defense Department spokes-man Lawrence Di Rita, speaking at a Tuesday Pentagon briefing, said the moves were part of the regular rotations, and would not significantly change the look of the force in either Iraq or Afghani-

The deployment would keep force levels at three brigades and a division headquarters element in Afghanistan, and 17 brigades and three division headquarters

elements in Iraq. "We are identifying the units, it's part of the ongoing rotation there's no change to the level or the disposition of the forces, it's just the next rotation that's going We're notifying the units and notifying the families

For Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, the troops

set to rotate in include ■ The 3rd and 4th Brigades and headquarters elements, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum,

■ The 53rd Infantry Brigade and headquarters elements, Florida National Guard

For Operation Iraqi Freedom, the following units have been tapped to rotate in:

■ 4th Infantry Division — division headquarters and four bri-■ 101st Airborne Division, Air

Assault, headquarters elements and four brigades, Fort Campbell, Ky

■ 48th Infantry Brigade (Sepa-

rate), Georgia National Guard ■ 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alas-

■ 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan. The Pentagon alerted all units

Friday, according to a senior Pentagon official. Smaller units will also be deployed, but planners had not gotten to that level of detail as of

Tuesday, according to the official. Army Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, deputy regional operations director for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it would be two to three months before the combat support elements

would be identified Asked whether the continued insurgency was the motivation behind the announcement, Di Rita would only say the Defense Department would continue to evaluate the situation to determine whether more or fewer troops will be needed in the years to

Speaking in Baghdad on Tues-day, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said U.S. troop numbers will rise from 138,000 to 150,000 before next month's elecwhich many Iraqis fear could be targeted by militants opposed to the occupation and bent

on derailing the political process. "Our troop levels will be at 150,000 for the elections and a little bit after," Myers said, adding that events would determine whether those numbers will be scaled down after the ballot.

The previous high for the U.S. force in Iraq was 148,000 on May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations were over, and most sol-diers thought the war had been von. The initial invasion force included thousands of sailors on ships in the Persian Gulf and other waters, plus tens of thousands of troops in Kuwait and other surrounding countries

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess and the Associated Press contributed to this report. E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mi

### McCain slams Rumsfeld on Iraq

BY BETH DEFALCO The Associated Press

PHOENIX - U.S. Sen. John McCain said Monday that he has "no confidence" in Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, citing Rumsfeld's handling of the war in Iraq and the failure to send more troops.

McCain, speaking to The Associated Press in an hourlong interview, said his comments were not a call for Rumsfeld's resignation, explaining that President Bush "can have the team that he wants around him."

Asked about his confidence in secretary's leadership, McCain recalled fielding a similar question a couple weeks ago.

"I said no. My answer is still No confidence," McCain said He estimated an additional

80,000 Army personnel and 20,000 to 30,000 more Marines would be needed to secure Iraq "I have strenuously argued for larger troop numbers in Iraq, including the right kind of troops — linguists, special forces, civil affairs, etc.," said McCain, R-Ariz. "There are very strong differences of opinion between

myself and Secretary Rumsfeld on that issue When asked if Rumsfeld was a liability to the Bush administration, McCain responded: "The president can decide that, not me."

McCain, a decorated Navy veteran and former Vietnam prisoner of war, is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has oversight of military operations and considerable influence over the Pentagon budget.

If Senate Republicans maintain their majority two years



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U.S. Sen. John McCain, left, said Monday that he and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, right, had "very strong differences of opinion" on the issue of force levels in Iraq.

from now. McCain would be in the situation at hand." Di Rita line to become the committee's

when consid-II think what is not ering whether to run for pres acceptable to the ident again. "In a couple American people years might give it is an increasina some consideration, but not flow of dead and right now," he said of a 2008

wounded (U.S. troops from Iraa). 77

Iraq U.S. Sen. John McCain

have a tioning independent govsaid McCain "has frequently exernment before U.S. troops pressed his views regarding

Despite the

"I believe we'll be in Iraq mili-Thelieve we in defin frag initiating for many years, which would not be a problem to the American people," he said. "I think what is not acceptable to the American people is an in-creasing flow of dead and wound-



President Bush stands with Presidential Medal of Freedom honorees, from left, former CIA Director George Tenet; retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who oversaw combat in Iraq and Afghanistan; and former Iraq administrator L. Paul Bremer on Tuesday at the White House.

## Three of Bush's key players in Iraq receive Medal of Freedom

troop levels in Iraq, and he is an

important member" of the com-

judgment of the military com-

manders to determine what force levels are appropriate for

Rumsfeld has "relied upon the

By JENNIFER LOVEN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush awarded the nation's highest civilian honor Tuesday to three men central to his Iraq policy, saying they had played "pivotal roles in great events.

Bush presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who oversaw combat in Afghanistan and the initial invasion of Iraq, former CIA Director George Tenet and former Iraq administrator L. Paul Bremer.

Franks, of Midland, Texas, is a retired four-star Army general who commanded U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. He spoke on the president's be-half at the Republican National Convention and campaigned for Bush through the fall.

Bush said Franks "led the forces that fought and on two wars in the defense of the world's security and helped liberate more than 50 million people from two of the worst tyrannies in the world

Tenet left the CIA in July after seven years as director. He has been criticized for intelligence failures before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the never-proven prewar allegations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Bush credited him as "one of the first to recognize and address the threat to America from radi cal networks." He said that after Sept. 11, Tenet was "ready with a plan to strike back at al-Qaida and to topple the Taliban.

Bremer was the top civilian U.S. official in postwar Iraq, overseeing the transfer of power to an in-terim Iraqi government in June. "For 14 months Jerry Bremer worked day and night in difficult and dangerous conditions to stabilize the country, to help its people rebuild and to establish a political process that would lead to justice and liberty," Bush said.

This fall, Bremer suggested the United States had paid a price in Iraq in the immediate after-math of major combat operations because it did not have enough troops in place to stop the looting.

The Medal of Freedom, established by President Truman in 1945 to recognize civilians for their efforts during World War II, was reinstated by President Kennedy in 1963 to honor distinguished ser-

## Former regime leaders to be tried next week

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Trials against the 11 figures in Saddam Hussein's ousted regime will begin next week, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Tuesday, but Saddam will not be among them.

Many of Iraq's former Baath Party members have been in jail for more than a year, and few have been able to meet with counsel.

Saddam's Jordan-based lawyers say they have not seen the former dictator, arrested a year ago Monday, and said holding trials so soon would be illegal.

"The Iraqi court will be in violation of the basic rights of the defendants, which is to have access to legal counsel while being interrogated and indicted," Ziad al-Khasawneh said.

Officials had given conflicting accounts about when the trials before the Iraqi Special Tribunal would begin, and have also suggested that Saddam would not be tried

### Saddam will not be among those to go on trial

first. The Associated Press learned Tuesday that the proceedings next week would not involve Saddam.

"I can now tell you clearly and precisely that, God willing, next week the trials of the symbols of the former regime will start, one by one so that justice can take its path in Iraq." Allawi told the interim National Council, without saying who would be tried to the council.

Allawi had previously said they would take place in October or November, while others have said they would begin no earlier than 2006. An Allawi spokesman later said he had no information about who would be tried first and said more details would be released Wednesday.

"There is a court process that involves investigative judges and a hearing for some of the former regime officials that is under preparation that we would expect to be

held next week," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "At that point, the accused and their attorneys do go to

court, although that's not the actual trial." Iraq's human rights minister, Bekhtiar Amin, said from Geneva that work was under way to bring some of Saddam's lieu-

tenants to trial before him.

"I don't know for sure when Saddam Hussein in particular will be tried, but the trial is scheduled to start sometime next year, the first quarter of next year," Amin said. "I doubt that Saddam will be the first one to be tried, there are others whom they will start with and the work is ongoing right now."

Allawi also announced the arrest of a cousin of Saddam's, Izzi-Din Mohammad Hassan al-Majid. Al-Majid, who fled Iraq in 1995 and was granted indefinite leave to remain in Britain in 2000, was arrested in Fallujah and will be put on trial as soon as possible, Allawi said. Government leaders have said recently the Special Tribunal is not yet prepared to begin the trials. They need to train judges and prosecutors, and sort through stacks of evidence, all under the pressure of a deadly insurgency that has been able to strike at will.

"The prosecution team, the defense counsel, the investigative judges, the documents are not ready," National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie told the AP last week. "It will take time. If you want to get it right, it will take time."

But leaders have come under new pressure recently. On Monday, the U.S. military acknowledged that eight of Saddam's 11 top lieutenants went on hunger strikes over the weekend to demand visits in jail from the International Committee of the Red Cross, but they were eating again by Monday.

A lawyer for former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said they were protesting the legality of their trials and their detention.

### Paper given wrong Guard count for Iraq death analysis

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army National Guard said Monday it had given USA Today an inaccurate count of Guard troops in Iraq since the beginning of the war in March 2003, but still could not provide a precise count, the paper reported Tuesday.

USA Today used those numbers to construct an analysis that showed part-time troops from the Guard were more likely to die in Iraq than their counterparts in the active-duty Army.

Without precise figures, there is no way to accurately compare death rates.

The Guard said last week that 37,000 Guard troops had set foot in Iraq since the start of the war. On Monday, Guard spokesman Scott Woodham said 90,972 Guard troops had been ordered to Iraq, but he could not say how many had actually gotten there, and how man were on their way.

Woodham gave two explanations for the error. In a telephone interview with USA Today on Monday, Woodham said the National Guard Bureau made "an internal mistake" in compiling the numbers.

In a second conversation, Woodham said he "misunderstood the question" when asked how many Army Guard troops had deployed to Iraq since the beginning of the war, USA Today reported.

The proportion of battle deaths for Army Guard and Reserve in Iraq are still significantly higher than in past conflicts, Woodham said. Throughout the 12-year Vietnam War, for example, fewer than 100 Guard troops were killed, compared with the 145 who have died in less than two years in Iraq.



U.S. soldiers inspect a car destroyed when a car bomb exploded in Baghdad on Tuesday.

### Green Zone checkpoint hit again

Second suicide car bombing in two days kills 7, wounds 13

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC The Associated Press

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide car bomber killed seven people at a Green Zone checkpoint early Tuesday, the second attack in two days near the same gate into the district that houses Iraq's interim government and the U.S. Embassv. officials said.

In other violence, the U.S. military said two U.S. Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based in western Iraq died in combat in Baghdad province Monday, bringing the number of Marines little dto 10 in three days. Seven other Marines died in action Sunday in Anbar, a vast province west of Baghdad including the battleground cities of Fallugha and Rating the battleground cities of Fallugha and Ratinary provided no details on their deaths, which brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003.

Tuesday's blast at the Green Zone checkpoint killed seven people and wounded at least 13 people, said Dr. Hassan AbdelSatar from Baehdad's Yarmouk Hospital.

Police Lt. Rafid Abid said the attack was carried out by a suicide car bomber.

A mushroom-shaped cloud of black smoke

rose from the site of the attack, which was near where a bomber struck Monday, killing 13 and injuring 15 people.

No U.S. troops were injured in either blast. The U.S. Embassy and several other missions are located inside the zone, which occupies an area of four square miles on the west bank of the Tigris River. The area, comprising Saddam's palace and other administrative buildings, is a virtual fortress encircled by miles of 12-foot-high barricades; it gates guarded by U.S. Bradley fighting vehicles. The

complex is off-limits to the public.

Several of Baghdad's main arteries dead-end straight into it, cut off by a triple layered sprawl of concertina wire, impassable concrete blast walls and sandbagged guard towers.

Poland announced Tuesday it will cut its troop strength in Iraq by nearly a thirt in the month following the vote, as part of long-standing plans to reduce its presence. Poland's current 2,400-member contingent will be cut to 1,700 from mid-February, with 700 soldiers remaining in Poland on standby. Defense Minister Jerry Szmajdzinski told a news conference in Warsaw.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, Gen. Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced the U.S. military will have a

### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,296 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,016 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

clude three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 74

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

uoi, Hungary and Tavalo offe udent each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Traq had ended, 1,158 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 907 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

tary's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the mili-

tary:
■ One U.S. soldier was killed Monday in a vehicle accident near Balad, Iraq.

Seven Marines were killed Sunday in Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

Army Spc. Robert W. Hoyt, 21, Ashford, Conn.; killed Saturday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his convoy; assigned to the National Guard, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, Bristol, Conn.

■ Army Staff Sgt Marvin L. Trost III. 28, Goshen, Ind., and Army Spc. Edwin W. Roodhouse, 36, San Jose, Calif., killed Dec. 5, when an explosive detonated near their vehicle in Habbaniyah, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, South Korea.

record-high 150,000 troops in Iraq through the Jan. 30 elections and "a little bit after." [See related story on Page 5.]

Myers predicted that last month's U.S.-led offensive to retake the western rebel stronghold of Fallujah would undercut the rebellion by denying guerrilla as ancutuary from which they could launch attacks with relative impunity. "They will try to move to other locations but I don't think they are going to find any location as satisfactory as Fallujah was for their operational planning and facilitation of what they were doing."





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## "Gift of Groceries" offers unique way to celebrate the season

By Bonnie Powell bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. – Anyone can show support for military families this holiday season with a "Gift of

"Whether it's for a national or installation charry, families of deployed service members, or simply as a gift for your neighbor, the general public can help support military families with commissary gift certificates," said Patrick B. Nixon, acting director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency, "Since the program began in the field of 2002, nearly \$5 million in commissary gift certificates has been given as gifts or donated to military families."

During the holidays in particular, gift certificates have proven to be handy for food basket programs by allowing recipients to purchase the groceries they need and prefer, rather than getting food items they might not be able to use. "And since commissaries sell food at cost, military families save an average of 30 percent or more by using their commissary benefit," said Nixon. "That's critical for families on a tight budget — at the holidays or any time of the veert".

The public can also donate gift certificates to worldwide organizations that assist military families such as the USO, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher HOUSO, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher HOUSO, Since the "Gift of Groceries" program began, nearly \$130,000 has been donated to those specific charities.

"The commissary gift certificates are obviously appreciated and used by families staying at Fisher Houses worldwide," said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications for Fisher House Foundation. Fisher Houses are comfort homes located near military medical facilities.

"Most donated certificates are being used to buy groceries for families staying at our homes while their loved ones recover from injuries sustained in Afghanistan or Iraq."

The "Gift of Groceries" program is made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc. at no cost to DeCA or the federal government. The program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates through a link at http://www.commis saries.com or by calling toll free 1-877-770-GIFT. The certificates can be given as gifts or donated, but only authorized commissary shoppers can spend them. A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the costs of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery.

Gift certificates, in \$2.5 denominations, are now available in all 273 commissaries worldwide. The availablity of gift certificates in stores is intended as a customer convenience - filling the need for a last minute gift. A handling fee of \$1 per \$2.5 certificate offsets printing, shipping and handling costs, and only cash or check is accepted on gift certificates acquired directly through a commissary customer service office.

## **Guarding the most dangerous highway in Iraq**

### Since November, there have been nearly 20 car bombings on Baghdad's airport road

BY JOSH WHITE

ON THE BAGHDAD AIRPORT ROAD

— Spc. Edward Gonzalez spun the turret
around quickly and locked it into place
with a loud clank, training his machine gun
on the traffic behind him. The radio had
just crackled with a warning: A suspicious
vehicle was moving in close on the Army

"What kind of car was it, again?" Gonzalez, 28, of Alice, Texas, belted out, ducking his head momentarily into the rolling armored Humvee, which has "Big Counter emblazoned on the windshield. First Lt. Jeffrey Porter, 25, of Tomahawk, Ky, dropped the radio and turned to his left, calmly describing a white 1995 Volsswagen Brasilia and telling his gunner he had been warned that the car might be rigged with explosives.

Some people call this road, the only way from the airport to Baghdad's Green Zone, the most dangerous highway in IraQ. Lately, it has become a magnet for enormous, fiery explosions. People boast that they've traveled it and are relieved when they make it from one end to the other. To the Army, it's just Route Irish.

"There he is, there he is," Gonzalez said, turning the turret again. "He's coming up on the right side. He's ahead of the rest of the traffic. OK. He's pulling off at the exit. There he grees."

Every minute on this roadway is tense. From the beginning of November through last week, there were nearly 20 car bombings here targeting U.S. convoys and government officials, leading the U.S. Embas-

sy to warn its staff not to travel the road.
Army officers and soldiers with the 4th
Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment are charged with protecting Route
Irish, and they say the road isn't nearly
abd as it is portrayed. They acknowledge
that the attacks have created a significant
perception problem, scaring people away
from the route and causing the U.S. military to dramatically increase its number of

The 2nd Brigade of the Army's 10th Mountain Division is planning to bring in another battalion of soldiers from the United States specifically to boost the military presence on the airport road. The plans are being developed, officials said without providing specifics, but a few hundred more soldiers will probably be added soon.

Maj. James Fischer, the acting commander of the unit, said he believed the Nowmber car bomb attacks were part of a campaign of intimidation by insurgents. Several people were killed in the attacks, but most of the casualities were bombers.

"In the big scheme of war, it's nothing," Fischer, 39, of Jefferson, Wis., said of the attacks. "It's not as bad as it looks.

Unfortunately, the enemy has caused a lot of people to worry. We're out there trying to keep it safe."

While every death is a tragedy, he said, new procedures on the road have for the most part prevented additional casualties.



Iraqis stand in early December outside a shop in Baghdad that was bombed. The shop is close to Baghdad's dangerous airnort highway.

The Army previously sent regular convoys to patrol the road; now soldiers are armed to the teeth and bring along tank-tracked Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The Bradleys are equipped with special magnification tools that allow soldiers to peer into and under cars from a safe distance to determine whether they are a threat

The car bombs, however, are a different story. There is almost nothing the military can do to stop suicide bombers, short of identifying them early, forcing the vehicles off the road or attacking them. The soldiers use profiles — including certain makes and models of cars and nervous or erratic behavior — to intervene as early as possible. They fire warning shots before putting bullets through a car's engine block. As a last resort, they will kill a driver.

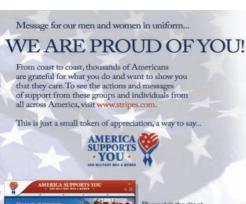
The explosions from the suicide missions leave blackened divots in the asphalt, and their sharp blasts rattle the windows and doors in nearby camps Liberty and Victory, where soldiers live. The sulking carcasses of civilian vehicles sit on the road's

Gonzalez and Porter, members of Assault Battery with the unit, speak softly when they mention their experience with a car bomb on Nov. 6, an attack that killed an American gunner in a Humvee directly behind theirs.

"He was clean-shaven and in a white car," Gonzalez said, perched in his turret, the sun reflecting off his blast-proof sunglasses. "As soon as I saw him, I knew it. He was nervous. He swerved to the far right lane, and by the time he got to the convoy, I shot."

Gonzalez hit the driver in the chest with one round from his M4 rifle. By the time he had fired a second shot, the middle of the car was erupting in flames. Gonzalez ducked and avoided injury.

"I got two kids at home," Gonzalez said.
"For a few days, I was worried about all of
this. But it kind of fades with time."





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"Scott Peterson was Laci's husband, Comer's daddy — the one person that should have protected them," juror Richelle Nice said Monday in Redwood City, Calif., after recommending death for Scott Peterson. "They can rest in peace," she said. "Justice was done." Judge Alfred A. Delucchi will formally sentence Peterson on Feb. 25. The judge will have the option of reducing the sentence to life, but such a movo is highly unlikely.



# Peterson jury calls for death

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press
REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — A
jury decided Monday that Scott

Peterson should be executed for murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, whose Christmas Eve disappearance two years ago was the opening act in a legal drama that captivated the nation.

A cheer went up outside the courtroom as the jury announces its decision after 11½ hours of deliberations over three days. The jury had two options in deciding the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman's fate: life in prison without parole or death by injection.

Peterson clenched his jaw when the verdict was read and leaned over to speak with his attorney, Mark Geragos. Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, cried quietly — her lips quivering. Scott Peterson's mother, Jackie, showed no apparent emotion.

A crowd of several hundred gathered outside the courthouse to hear the verdict.

Three jurors held a news conference following the verdict in which they described what they called a "very hard" decision.

"There are so many things, so many things," juror Richelle Nice said. "Scott Peterson was Laci's husband, Conner's daddy — the one person that should have protected them."

The jury had been told that Peterson did not wear his emotions on his sleeve. Nice told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that she noticed Peterson becoming emotional during the penalty phase of his trial.

"Is it just that he doesn't show emotion for Laci and Conner?" she asked.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi will formally sentence Peterson on Feb. 25. The judge will have the option of reducing the sentence to life, but such a move is highly un-

If the judge upholds the sentence, Peterson will be sent to death row at San Quentin State Prison outside San Francisco, the infamous lockup where prisoners gaze out small cell windows overlooking the same bay where Laci Peterson's body was discarded.

But Peterson still might not be executed for decades — if ever and it can take years for even the first phase of the appeals process to begin.

The death sentence came almost two years to the date after the disappearance of Laci Peterson, a 27-year-old substitute teacher who married her college sweetheart and was soon to be the proud mother of a baby boy named Conner. The story set off a tabloid frenzy as suspicion began to swirl around Scott Peterson, who claimed to have been fishing by himself on Christmas Eve and was carrying on an affair with a

massage therapist at the time.

In a brief news conference after the verdict, Geragos said he was "very disappointed." "Obviously, we plan on pursuing every and all appeals, motions for a new trial and everything else," he said.



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## **Report: States** not protected

### Bioterror prevention chided

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - States are slowly getting better prepared to handle bioterrorism, but most still don't have statewide response plans and federal funding is declining, according to a new report.

The report echoed fears voiced by outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson earlier this month, when he said he couldn't understand why haven't attacked the country's food supply because it would be "so easy to do."

And the review follows a year in which the country faced a shortage of flu vaccines - normally a routine protection against a known problem

Compiled by the nonprofit Trust for America's Health, the report issued Tuesday found only six states are adequately prepared to distrib ute vaccines and antidotes in an emergency, but it named only three of them: Florida, Illinois and

"More than three years after 9/11 and the anthrax tragedies, we've only made baby steps to ward better bioterrorism preparedness, rather than the giant leaps required to adequately protect the American people," said three-term former Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., now president of Trust for America's Health.

The report concluded that basic bioterrorism detection, diagnosis and response capabilities are not in place, and the country has a long way to go to protect the American public from such an attack

One common problem was lack of funding. Federal bioterrorism aid has decreased by about \$1 million per state in 2004, and about one third of the states saw their public health budgets decline.

The report graded states on whether they met 10 criteria, in-cluding such elements as the amount of state spending and fed-eral aid allocated to public health, the flu vaccine rates, and the number of scientists and laboratories available to test for anthrax or the

No state met all 10 criteria, and only two - Florida and North Caro-lina - met nine of the 10. Two states. Massachusetts and Alaska. met only three criteria, and received the worst ranking

Most states, including Rhode Island, met five or six criteria. The most significant downfall

among the states was the lack of adequate public health labs and laboratory scientists to handle serious outbreaks. The report found only 16 states have enough labs and 21 have enough scientists.

### How well is your state prepared?

A ranking of states by the Trust for America's Health, based on their preparedness to face bioterrorism risks

States are ranked by how many of 10 criteria they met. The criteria, picked by the trust, include such elements as state spending on public health, flu vaccine rates and the number of scientists available to test for anthrax or the

9: Florida, North Carolina 8: Minnesota, Nebra New Hampshire, Virginia Nebraska

7: Kansas, Kentucky, Missis-Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota. Vermont

6: Colorado. Connecticut. Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

5: Alabama, Arizona, Arkan sas, California, Delaware, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island

4: Indiana, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Wyoming 3: Alaska, Massachusetts -The Associated Press

Handling a flu pandemic, especially in light of this year's shortage of flu vaccines, would be a problem for at least 20 states that have no public response plan in

This is the second year in a row that the group has compiled the bioterrorism report card on the states. But changes in the grading make comparisons with last year's scores difficult.

### LAX not lax on efforts to safeguard airliners

BY GREG KRIKORIAN

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - Counterterrorism officials, prompted by a series of overseas attacks against commercial airliners, have quietly taken steps to protect jetliners at Los Angeles International Airport from terrorists armed with shoulder-launched missiles.

Although there is no credible intelligence indicating that terrorists have planned such an attack at LAX, the officials say the security measures are needed because nortable weapons are easy to buy on the international arms market and are deadly, with infrared guidance systems that lock onto the heat emitted by jetliners' engines.

The security measures, instituted over the past year, include increased police patrols around the airport, new perimeter fencing, stepped-up training to help personnel spot the tubular weapons and expanded helicopter surveillance during terrorism alerts so a missile's mute could be tracked in the event of an attack.

A Rand Corp. report commissioned by airport authorities said earlier this year that LAX is "a particularly attractive target" for terrorists and outlined ways of reducing the risk of attacks involving so-called man-portable air defense systems.

"I think the threat has been continually underestimated by the decisionmakers in Washing ton," said Sen. Barbara Boxer.

D-Calif., who has urged the Department of Homeland Security to accelerate plans for installing missile defense on commercial

Terrorists have never fired a shoulder-launched missile at an airplane in the United States. But the small missiles, weighing less than 40 pounds, have been used to shoot down two dozen commercial aircraft around the world over the past three decades and could be smuggled into the United States. A successful attack could ground the entire commercial airline fleet, some experts

"The threat is real." John Miller, the Los Angeles Police Department's counterterrorism chief said in an interview after appearing at a counterterrorism conference last month at the University of Southern California. "With about 20,000 of these available on the black market, for \$2,000 to \$3,000 each, there is no indication it will not be tried again.

Counterterrorism officials see shoulder-fired missiles as a looming threat in the United States in part because tighter airport screening measures - promoted by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks - have made it harder for extremists to hijack an airliner and down it from within At the federal level, Boxer's

most far-reaching solution calls for retrofitting the nation's commercial airliners with onboard lasers that destroy a portable missile's infrared guidance sensor.

### More evidence Mars had water?



Scientists have identified a water-signature mineral called goethite in bedrock that NASA's Mars rover Spirit examined in the Columbia Hills, one of the mission's surest indicators yet for a wet history on Spirit's side of Mars. Spirit and its twin, Opportunity, were sent to Mars to look for geologic evidence of a watery past. Both rovers, especially Opportunity, have found such evidence in their nearly yearlong treks over the martian surface, but Goestar Klingelhoefer of the University of Mainz, Germany, lead scientist for the spectrometers on each rover, said Monday in a statement issued by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., that the goethite find is particularly important.

## Documents: AIDS drug's problems hidden by NIH

Bush unaware of nevirapine concerns when use was touted

By JOHN SOLOMON The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The government's re search on using an AIDS drug to protect African babies was so flawed that health officials had to use blood tests after the fact to confirm patients got the medicine. Ultimately, they had to acknowledge the study broke federal patient protection rules.

But the National Institutes of Health never told the White House about prob-lems it found in 2002 with its research on the drug nevirapine before President Bush unveiled a \$500 million plan to distribute the medicine across Africa, documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

Instead, officials inside the government's premier health research agency scrambled to keep its safety experts' concerns from scuttling the use of nevirapine in Africa as a cheap solution to stopping bahies from getting AIDS from infected moth ers, the memos show.

"Everyone recognized the enormity that this decision could have on the worldwide use of nevirapine to interrupt mother-baby "NIH's AIDS research chief Dr. Edmund C. Tramont, reported March 14, 2002, to his boss, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
Since then, hundreds of thousand of

doses of the drug have been administered to African mothers and babies under the Bush plan

Up to half those babies may have been stopped from getting AIDS, officials said. But now concerns are emerging about whether nationts who received those single doses have developed resistance to further AIDS treatment.

The documents show Tramont and other NIH officials dismissed the problems with the nevirapine research in Uganda as overblown and were slow to report safety concerns to the Food and Drug Administra-

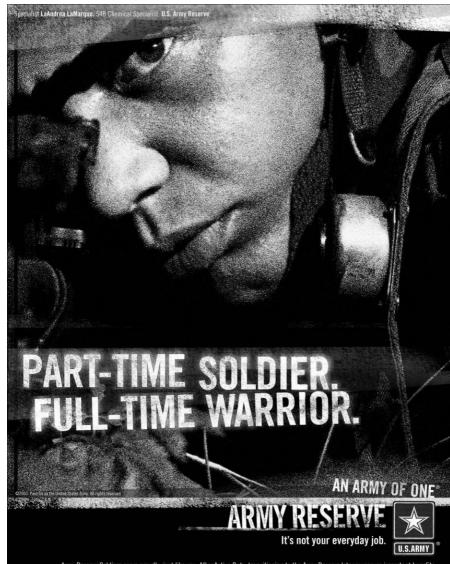
A professional auditor hired by NIH who first helped disclose the problems said in an interview that most of the problems were fixable but NIH officials were in a rush to declare that things were OK.

"It seemed to me we were drawing conclusions too quickly across the board, espe cially the implementation of nevirapine in South Africa," said auditor Michael Hens-

Ultimately, NIH did stop the Uganda re-earch for 15 months — from the spring of 2002 to the summer of 2003 — to the science and take corrective actions.

NIH officials said they remain confident

that nevirapine can be used safely in single doses by African mothers and children to prevent HIV transmission during birth.



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### IN THE WORLD

## **EU official: Radicals training in Iraqi camps**

BY RAF CASERT The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium - Radical youths from Europe and the Arab world are being trained in Irag. Europe's anti-terror chief said Tuesday, warning that such clandestine camps could multiply in unstable or failed states anywhere in the world.

"There are some who have gone to Iraq, as indeed there have been youngsters from outside Europe, from Arab countries, who have gone there to receive military training," EU counterterrorism coordinator Gijs de Vries said in an interview with The Associat-

De Vries refused to elaborate on the specifics, such as the num-

### London strikes planned

LONDON - Drivers on a London subway line will stage one-day strikes on Dec. 24 and Jan. 5, their union said Tuesday, disrupting travel over the busy Christmas period.

Drivers on the Piccadilly Line, which runs from Heathrow Airport through central London, voted 77-15 to walk out on the two dates in their dispute over the demotion of a driver accused of running red signals, the Aslef union said.

In a separate ballot, drivers on the District Line voted to work to rule Jan. 5 in a dispute over working conditions

### Crackdown sex tourism

ROME - Italian authorities arrested four people in a crackdown on travel agents who organized child sex tourist trips to Brazil, police said Tuesday.

Rome police official Alberto Intini said the trips were organized by a travel agency in the Brazilian city of Fortaleza, which sent clients to local bars, discos or hotels where child prostitution was

Police arrested the Italian owner of the travel agency as he was boarding a plane from Italy to Brazil last week, Intini said They arrested his Brazilian wife and the owners of two other Italian travel agencies in a pre-dawn raid on Tuesday.

### **Bad Sex writing award**

LONDON - It's the literary award no author wants to win, and this year it's gone to Tom Wolfe

The Literary Review gave Wolfe its annual Bad Sex award Monday for his best-selling novel "I Am Charlotte Simmons."

Judges said the book's sex scenes were "ghastly ... inept ... unrealistic." The nearly 700-page novel is set at fictional Dunont University in Pennsylvania, chronicling the bright, naive Charlotte Simmons' entry into a hedonistic world filled with heavy drinking and casual sex.

those training in Iraq, saying the information was classified.

But he warned that action had to be taken to stop instability breeding terror.

"This is incidentally not just the case in Iraq," he said.

"Instability elsewhere in the world, in Africa for example, always makes it more difficult for the law to be upheld, for democracy to function, and therefore makes it easier for terrorists to hide and train.

## Terror threat remains high in Europe

BRUSSELS, Belgium -\_ The European Union's anti-terror chief warned Tuesday that all of Europe remains vulnerable to terrorist strikes despite a lull in attacks since the March 11 Madrid bombings and the foiling of plots in several countries.

"We should take it very seri-

ously indeed," EU counter-terrorism coordinator Gijs De Vries said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Spanish and British authorities say they have averted major terror attacks in recent months

In October, 30 people were detained on suspicion of planning to drive an explosives-packed

truck into Madrid's National Court

British police said last week they had prevented an attack in London on the scale of the Madrid bombings.

"There have been other instances," De Vries said, but refused to give details. He warned that such success must not lead to complacency.



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From The Associated Press



Onlookers get a view of the world's tallest traffic bridge last Thursday, in Millau, France. The viaduct soars over a valley in southern France. President Jacques Chirac on Tuesday inaugurated the bridge, which stands about 890 feet at its highest point and is scheduled to open to vehicular traffic on Thursday.

## France unveils world's tallest roadway bridge

BY PERRINE LATRASSE The Associated Press

MILLAU, France - Piercing the sky above the verdant hills of southern France, a roadway bridge hailed as the tallest in the world was officially inaugurated Tuesday.

Celebrated as a work of art and an object of French national pride, the Millau bridge will enable motorists to take a drive through the sky - 891 feet above the Tarn River valley for 1.6-mile stretch through France's Massif Central mountains.

Designed by British architect Norman Foster, the steel-and-con

diagonal suspension cables rests on seven pillars - the tallest measuring 1,122 feet, making it 53 feet taller than the Eiffel Tower.

The bridge, which has an airy and fluid appearance, was designed to have the "delicacy of a butterfly," Foster said in an interview with regional daily newspaner Midi Libre.

"A work of man must fuse with nature. The pillars had to look almost organic, like they had grown from the earth," said Foster, who also designed London's Millennium Bridge

Colorado's

Bridge, towering 1,053 feet above the Arkansas River, is the world's tallest suspension bridge - but it is designed for pedestrians. The Kochertal viaduct in Germany was the highest roadway, at 607 feet, officials said.

President Jacques Chirac, surrounded by workers in hard hats, lifted a French flag covering a ie on the bridge in the town of Millau on Tuesday.

"This exceptional opening will go down in industrial and technological history," Chirac said, praising the bridge's designers and builders for creating "a prodigy of art and architecture new emblem of French civil engi-

### Yushchenko advocates take campaign beyond Ukrainian capital city

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine - Supporters of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko expanded a campaign to spread the so-called Orange Revolution beyond Ukraine's capital on Tuesday, organizing a convoy that will visit 15 cities in the coming days — including in eastern provinces that have been hostile to the candidate.

More than 50 supporters of the Pora (It's Time) youth movement will head to the pro-Russian east-

ern provinces, hoping to win over voters in areas where support for Yushchenko's opponent Vik-tor Yanukovych has been strong. Yushchenko and Yanukovych face off for the presidency in a



Dec. 26 contest ordered by the Supreme Court after the two candidates' second-round vote on Nov. 21 was ruled fraudulent

The "friendship journey" - in which Yushchenko supporters flaunt the campaign's trademark orange color - is part of a campaign roiled by explosive revelations, including the confirmation by an Austrian clinic over the weekend that Yushchenko had been poisoned by dioxin. Prosecutors and a parliamentary committee quickly set up investigations - the second time each has examined the poisoning incident and officials close to the Ukrainian leadership took charge of both. Yushchenko fell ill in September and was rushed to the Austrian clinic on Sept. 10. His illness caused dramatic facial disfigure-

ment. "So far we don't have an independent source of information which could allow us to analyze the situation," said Mikhail Pohrebinsky, a Kiev-based political analyst with ties to President Leonid Kuchma.

Pro-Vushchenko lawmaker Yuriy Pavlenko speculated that Russian agents may have been involved — a popular local theory stemming from Russian President Vladimir Putin's backing of Yanukovych.

Many of the ruling political and business elite faced the loss of lucrative contracts made possible by high level connections if Vanukovych Kuchma's hand-picked successor — lost the race, analysts said.

Many of those contracts involve Russia. All but one of Russia's major infrastructure links and natural gas exports to Europe pass through Ukraine

Government opponents have faced attack before. More than two dozen Ukrainian politicians, high-ranking businessmen and iournalists have died under suspicious circumstances during Kuchma's decade in power. All investigations into the deaths have proved inconclusive.

For his part, Yanukovych said he sympathized with his rival and that he wished him "no evil."

In an interview with The Associated Press, he demanded a thorough investigation and promised not to interfere in it. But he stressed that the impact of the dioxin could hamper Yushchenko's performance should he be elect-

Associated Press writers Yuras Karmanau and Danica Kirka contributed to this story.



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### Pakistan, India begin talks to avoid accidental nuclear war

BY MUNIR AHMAD The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Pakistani and Indian negotiators opened talks Tuesday on how to avoid an accidental nuclear war between the two South Asian rivals, the foreign ministry said.

It is the second time since June the two sides have met to discuss their nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan also have launched a broader effort to resolve long-running disputes, including their competing claims over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told reporters the two sides were discussing "new safeguards to avoid any accidental nuclear war" - including giving advance notification of missile tests.

Both delegations expressed optimism about the talks, scheduled to last two days. "We are happy to be in Islamabad," said Meera Shanker, head of the Indian delegation. "We are in favor of re-sult-oriented talks."

The head of the Pakistani side, Tariq Usman Haider, also said he hoped for "result-oriented" negotiations that would benefit the "governments and peoples of both the countries."

During the June meeting, India and Pakistan agreed to extend a moratorium in nuclear tests and to set up a telephone hot line between the top bureaucrats in their foreign ministries. These agreements were expected to be finalized at this week's talks.

Although New Delhi and Islamabad have used missile tests as a form of diplomatic pressure, offi-cials from both sides say recent tests weren't aimed at sending any signals ahead of negotiations.

The two sides already notify each other prior to missile tests but the current talks are aiming to formalize an agreement under which they would provide additional details about their tests, such as the range of the missile and the location of the test.

## STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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able for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affilia tion, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

### Women don't belong in infantry

In response to "Women Can Handle War" (Oct. 31), this subject is so delicate for any enlisted male to speak about, let alone write about.

So, leaving all personal opinions aside, I say if females want to go into infantry units, then let them in. But in doing so, you have to level the playing field completely. starting with physical fitness require ments and body fat requirements.

Living quarters in garrison should be integrated down to having Marines of the op posite sex as roommates. Females should also have to register for the selective service as all men do when they turn 18.

Right now it is overly obvious to most in fantry noncommissioned officers that the military is more concerned with quantity not quality. It would rather have beefed up battalions with as many personnel as possi ble, regardless of how many of them have to be carried or excessively helped along

the way. Since we are already letting anyone who tells his recruiter that he wants infantry into the infantry, why limit it to kids who can barely hack it? Open the door completely to females, too.

Then do anonymous surveys of the units that have been integrated. See how many men complain about having to "pick up the slack" or do extra sandbag working parties, or carry gun systems that much further on a hump.

See how many sexual harassment cases you have in those units, how many unwanted pregnancies you have. Watch and see

how low morale gets. Women have played a large role in the war on terrorism in support roles. No one can deny that. And yes, this is a different fight than America has had in the past. The war has changed, the world has changed and the military has changed The only thing that has not changed is the fact that the United States has won every major fight it has been in for years and years. So I say either rewrite the whole program, or drop it.

If the U.S. war machine isn't broke, don't try to fix it.

Marine Sgt. Michael David Tilus Al Oaim, Iraa

### They weren't 'religionists'

In response to the letter writer afraid that a "holy roller" or "religionist" might use a weapon of mass destruction ("All religious fanatics a threat," Dec. 6), and his intolerance of religious views. I would like to rebut that with few facts he deigned to forget.

At this time, one of the terrorist states in the world is North Korea, known to probably have nuclear weapons and very willing to use them. In this totalitarian state a professing Christian would be killed or impris oned to be "re-educated" to their proper atheistic world view, maybe using the book the letter writer espoused as the truth. If that same Christian escaped into China, he would probably be immediately

### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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returned to North Korea where he would be summarily executed, or he would be imprisoned in China to be "re-educated"

But let's go back a little to the enlightened 20th century. Have you forgotten the 20 million to 30 million killed by Josef Stalin? I don't believe he was a religionist.

How about Adolph Hitler? Over 6 million there. Nope, he was not a religionist. Hmmm, how about Chairman Mao Zedong? What is another 20 million here or there? No. not him either

Let's see, how about Pol Pot in Cambo dia? Only 2 million to 3 million, he was not a religionist either.

Let me see how about the millions in South Vietnam, murdered because they were Christians or sent to re-education

Sudan? Somalia? Ethiopia?

So is it possible, if a religionist had a weapon of mass destruction he would use it? Maybe, but I would submit to you that recent and past history, if you want to continue to look further back, will prove that it is not a religionist you should be looking for, but maybe one with a more enlightened atheistic world view, perhaps Maj. Tim Cutler

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

### Column won't be printed

I would like to offer reassurance to the writer of "All religious fanatics are a lishing in Stars and Stripes a Christian devotional column.

He avowed, "... I swear to resist and revolt against all attempts to impose your dangerous beliefs upon me and all free 'Mercifully, we are spared speneonle .. cifics as to how he would "revolt and re-Relax, specialist. I am certain Stripes

will never publish this column. After eight months in-country. I have yet to read anything in this paper remotely encouraging for soldiers. Rather, if one were to base his assessment of the U.S. military's effort

solely on Stripes' reporting, one would conclude (a) the military is routinely getting its backside kicked and (b) official U.S. military policy is to abuse, degrade and humiliate any insurgents captured. So encouragement of soldiers - of Christian faith or otherwise - is not an editorial objective.

Another reason such a column will never sully these pages follows: We often see ads about Stripes reporters with the proud claim "No one tells your story like we do." In the Dec. 6 issue I note articles by writers for The Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Daily News, The Washington Post and Scripps Howard News Service It was another issue of Stripes without a single article by a designated Stripes reporter. However, note the publications featured: they are all unabashedly liberal newspapers or news services - apparently consistent with the Stripes editorial policy. Liberal publications are decidedly not pro-Christian.

A final note, specialist. I do not need to

read "The End of Faith" to ascertain whether our Founding Fathers desired to establish a nation with Christian ideals. I have read many of their letters and documents (their own words). George Washing-ton said, "True religion affords government its surest support. The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of our youth. It is impossible to govern without the Bible

For you may I recommend "The Faith of the Founding Fathers" by Edward H. Erwin for your edification.

Mai. Darrell R. Over Camp Cooke, Iraq

### Only infantry deserves CIB

Despite the pleas by all noninfantry soldiers out there who think because they perform a few tasks that they should be awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for their service in this war: There is a time when the Army calls on its best to go do the job. And I can guarantee you it is not those who are out there crying about not getting one. I had the chance to be part of the opera-

tion to take out the insurgents in Najaf this past August. All of these so-called infantry-men out there were doing maybe a patrol. maybe a raid, or even a snap traffic control point. Heaven forbid the Army asks you to perform basic soldiering skills. I guess vou don't remember that you are a soldier first and your military occupational specialty second. In regards to Naiaf, our commanders

called the best trained battalion in the 1st Cavalry Division, an infantry battalion, be cause he knew that was our job. The key word there is our "job." You may be asked to do things that are similar to our job, but I can assure you that you do nothing like 118.

Ask around next time Najaf comes up. You will find out that only we should be awarded the CIB because only we can do the job we did.

Spc. Kenji Nihipali Camp Striker Raghdad

### Doonesbury





### **OPINION**

## Troops don't need to be shielded from truth

WASHINGTON spin doctors' motto goes, knock the messenger. That's how some people are reacting to the soldier's question that knocked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld off his game

Clarence Page



during a town-hall session in Kuwait. Spc. Thomas J. Wilson, a scout with a Tennessee National Guard unit, wondered out loud why soldiers still have to fortify their canvas-covered Humvees with "hillbilly

armor": scrap metal and ballistic-resistant glass that they dig out of landfills for protection. After a brief mo-

ment of stony silence, the comment brought a spontaneous eruption of "hooah!" and applause from other troops.

It also brought a remarkably condescending response from Rumsfeld, who may have become too accustomed to treating reporters like annoyingly curious children to shift gears to a tone appropriate for the combat

men and women under his command.
"You go to war with the Army you have,"
he said, "not the one you might want or the

one you might wish to have at a later time."
That was a curious comment, considering how much time the Defense Department has had to build up to "the Army we might want" since the end of what the administration calls "major fighting" last year.

Rumsfeld deliberately held down the manpower and support for Iraq against the strong advice of former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki and other generals who said that more troops and equipment would be needed. The Army we have is what Rumsfeld wanted, not what the generals said we

Now, Rumsfeld assured the troops, the Pentagon is pushing its suppliers to produce armored vehicles as fast as possible. But his claim brought swift dispute from some of the makers of armor and Humwees. The factories have been running well below capacity, spokesmen said, but the Pentagon had not taken them up on the offers to produce.

more armored vehicles.

Meanwhile, improvised explosive devices at roadsides — against which our troops could use more armor — have caused about half of America's casualties.

nair of America's castuarties.

Yet, Rumsfeld added what may be the world's least necessary caveat: "You can have all the armor in the world on a tank; it can [still] be blown up." ...

I don't know when Rumsfeld will take questions from soldiers again, but the day after you-know-what freezes over sounds about right.

Yet, hard as it may be to criticize Spc. Wilson for raising a question that undoubtedly weighs on the mind of each and every soldier in Iraq, some people are finding ways to criticize the combat newspaper correspondent who, it turns out, had a hand in Wilson askine it.

Edward Lee Pitts, a reporter with the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Pree Press who is embedded with Wilson's Tennessee National Guard unit, took credit in an e-mail later leaked to Internet sites that after he learned that reporters would not have a chance to question Rumsfeld, he worked on questions in advance of the meeting with two soldiers from the unit...

In a letter to readers, his newspaper acknowledged that the reporter should have mentioned his role in his reporting, but otherwise, his editors supported him, as they should. He did not deceive anyone. No one forced Wilson to ask the question, which



President Bush later agreed was a legitimate question to ask.

Yet, some partisan critics, apparently unable to defend Rumsfeld, attacked Pitts. "He created news in order to cover it," said conservative commentator Rush Limbauch.

"We found out the whole thing today is a setup," Limbaugh added.

A setup to do what? Tell the truth? A Pentagon spokesman huffed that the meeting was 'intended for soldiers to have dialogue with the secretary" and that no one should have 'interfered with that opportunity, whatever the intention."

Hey, you want dialogue? You got dia-

loguel Here's a bigger question: Why should reporters have to resort to asking questions through soldiers in order to get an answer and, one hopes, some action from the top brass and the Bush administration on a long-standing problem like vehicle armor!

Our uniformed men and women in Iraq are not whining about this. They courageously take on dangerous missions every day. Afterward, they want to get home safe. The rest of us should support them with something more substantive than flag-waving. That's not too much to ask. Clarence Paole is a Olicasor Tibus columnist.

## Chaplains not in conflict as they minister in battle To interest in the work of mili As much as I'm a stickler for separating stitution from which he got his theological "We got him alive."

y interest in the work of military chaplains goes back to my childhood. The pastor of the church my family attended was an Army chaplain in World War II, having served in the South Paserved in the S

### Bill Tammeus



cific.

Now and then he'd tell stories about it. Something (maybe many things) traumatic must have happened to him in the war, because eventually he because, in author Kurt Vonnegut's apt term, unstuck in time. Although he was physical

ly in the present, his mind was back in the South Pacific in the war, and he could speak of nothing else. He had to be sent to a mental institution. Eventually he left the ministry, emotionally and mentally wounded.

Despite (or maybe because of) this odd exposure to military chaplainer). I have long admired the people who risk doing this work. I have never served in the military (which, were in the Vietnam era, didn't want someone with my severe near-sightedness and my diagnosis of rheumatoid arthitis), but I know that the men and women who put on our nation's uniform need all the emotional and spiritual help they can get, especially on the battlefield.

I liked the way an article in the December issue of Christianity Today described the work such people do: "Chaplains are preachers, teachers and counselors, counted as vital players who quietly help hold the military together."

As much as I'm a stickler for separating church and state, I avoid the argument over whether government pay for chaplains is an unconstitutional breach of that wall. Military people, no matter what religion they follow (and sometimes even if they follow none), need chaplains to help them do their other than the contraction of the cont

But I've always been curious about whether chaplains sometimes feel part of a killing machine. And, if so, how they live with themselves.

Not long ago, John W. Kiser, who grew up in my Kansas City church and now is an Army chaplain, was invited to Princeton Theological Seminary, the Presbyterian indegree, to preach on "Chaplains Day." In that sermon, John answered my question directly and well." I'd on ot see my self as an advocate of war but as a missionary of the gospel of peace. I am an advocate of soldiers to God, and for God to soldiers, even in the midst of warfare.
"I see war as a sign of a fallen, sinful

world, but unfortunately necessary at times." ...

John has served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Ku-

wait and Iraq. In fact, he was in Iraq the day Saddam Hussein was captured, and we shared e-mail that day about the joy the U.S. military personnel there were feeling.

"This is how the GIs [in World War II] must have felt when they knew Hitler was dead but even better." he wrote me.

"We got him alive."

Over the years, the military chaplaincy

Over the years, me minarly Cuapanity has broadened to represent the growing has broadened to represent the growing man and the property of the property of the growing the property of the growing the

I don't know whether there are atheists in foxholes, but I know chaplains are there. And I'm grateful for their service.

By BRUCE TINSLEY

Bill Tammeus is a columnist for The Kansas City (Mo.) Star.

### Mallard Fillmore



### YOUR MONEY

### Adware file can be hard to track down

Ask Jim

Norton virus protection. When I do a scan of my computer, it shows that I have one infected file, which Norton identifies as MediaTicketInstaller.ocx, an adware file Norton asks if I want to delete the file, but when I respond "yes" it fails to de-

lete it. Other files will be deleted properly if they are detected as possible infections

Norton tells me that the file is in the dows/Downloaded Pro-grams folder, However, cannot find it in that folder when I use Windows Explorer, nor can I find it using Start and Search and then plugging in the file name. So how can I find the

file, since Norton keeps telling me it is in my computer? -Roy Messer @pacbell.net

A. Did it ever occur to you that Symantec Corp.'s vaunted Norton AntiVirus could be wrong? It didn't occur to me either, Mr. M. At least that was the case until I hunkered down to research your problem and found that it's bugging a lot of folks.

They all say the antivirus program does a first-rate job of finding this nasty bit of spyware/adware but, like you, they can't find it and delete it.

That's because the authors of this bit of vandalism apparently found a way to use the Windows System Registry to cloak the file so it cannot be found even if users

set their computers to show all hidden and system files and do

searches as you did.

Here's the drill for making registry fixes: First, make a backup of this utterly essential Windows file that handles a huge proportion of everything a computer

does. Click on Start and then Run and type the command regedit to open the registry.

Now look under the File commands for Export and pick it to send a copy of the intact registry to your hard drive. If you get in trouble following my advice, you can re store the registry by clicking on that backup icon. Now highlight the first

line in the registry and tap Control + F and type the search term medi icket. Using Find Next will take you to up to a half-dozen instances of the file in the registry and you will find that each of them has been assigned a value, which you can find by clicking on the entry. Use the edit box this brings up to remove the value, which is a code that hides the files even if your machine is set to find hidden files.

Now go back to the Start/Search button you had been using and search again. This time MediaTicketInstaller.ocx will be visible for deletion.

contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: jcoates@tribune.com or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611, Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: Contact lim Coates via e-mail at:

## Gift guide for co-workers

### Don't forget etiquette when shopping for office mates

BY MARY ELLEN SLAYTER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - Sparkly ruby pendant for Mom - check

Sturdy snow boots for Dad - check A copy of your favorite kid's book for your

6-year-old niece - check. The holiday shopping list looks pretty good so

far. Now, what are you getting your boss? Almost half of us plan to give a holiday gift to at least one business associate this year, according to a poll conducted by Harris Interactive Inc. for Office Depot Inc. The survey also found that 90 percent of us are baffled about the etiquette ass with workplace gift-swapping. We spend so much time with our co-workers.

it's not surprising that we wonder if we should get them gifts. But what kinds of gifts? The expecta tions surrounding holiday giving vary so much from office to office that it is difficult to generalize. However, here are 11 tips to help you indulge in the holiday spirit without running afoul of the law

or good taste Check the rules. Some organizations have strict regulations about what kinds of gifts their employees can give and receive. In government agencies, this can be a matter of law, and repercussions for violating cost ceilings or reporting re-

quirements can be severe. ■ Give to the group. Instead of individual gifts to your office mates, give something everyone can enjoy. Food is generally well-received. If you're a good cook, bake a tasty treat. If not, surprise everyone with coffee and pastries from a bakery one afternoon. Besides saving you money, and the time it would take to wrap gifts, this approach has another advantage: If people have diet restrictions due to diabetes or a food allergy, for example they can simply pass on the offering without mak-

■ Keep it secular. Not everyone is Christian, but people of all faiths will usually welcome a cheerful "Happy Holidays." If you send out greeting cards to colleagues, choose those without an overtly religious message. They may be different from the ones you send close friends and family.

■ Nix the "family newsletters." Even if year-in-the-life essays are your favorite holiday tradition, please don't send them to business asso ciates. The contents of such letters usually are of interest only to family members.

Forget about booze. What seems like a gener-ous gift to you could be an unfortunate trigger for a recovering alcoholic, or just plain useless to someone who doesn't drink for personal, medical

■ Keep it modest. Remember, if half of us plan to give gifts, that means the other half do not. People should not feel guilty if they don't have the means or desire to reciprocate. The more expensive the gifts you dole out, the more likely you will make someone in your office uncomfortable.

■ No knickknacks. Please. Most of us can barely see our desks as it is. The last thing we need is another coffee mug, paperweight, clock or pen-and-pencil set.

■ Stick to what you know. Or rather, who you know. If you have never met someone, don't feel compelled to give him a holiday gift.

■ Be inclusive. Publicly anyway. If you plan to

give gifts to only a few co-workers with whom you are particularly close, do it outside work

■ Keep it clean. This should go without saying. Do not consider gag gifts that rely on sexual innu-endo or ethnic stereotypes to be funny. Do not give anything that could remotely be considered inti-

■ Be generous down the chain. Give your assistant or intern at least as nice a gift as the one you give your boss

### MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

52-week Net % YTD 52-wk							
High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	Chg	% Chg	% Chg
10,753.63	9,708.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,638.32	+95.10	+.90	+1.76	+6.14
3,748.05	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,724.96	+38.93	+1.06	+23.87	+26.24
335.20	252,47	Dow Jones Utilities	325.03	+5.34	+1.67	+21.78	+27.79
7.108.61	6.087.23	NYSE Composite	7.102.41	+73.90	+1.05	+10.28	+15.07
1.417.41	1.105.38	Amex Index	1,399.05	+6.97	+.50	+19.22	+24,96
2.164.63	1,750.82	Nasdag Composite	2.148,50	+20.43	+.96	+7.24	+12.00
1.197.46	1.053.41	S&P 500	1,198,68	+10.68	+.90	+7.80	+12.23
646.34	548.29	S&P MidCap	645,80	+4.50	+.70	+12.12	+15.64
644.84	515.90	Russell 2000	638.03	+5.79	+.92	+14.57	+19.20
11.788.44	10.244.15	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,790,29	+98.31	+.84	+9.17	+13.53

	NYS	Ε			Аме	X			Nasd	AQ	
Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Lucent SprntFON Pfizer Motorola Time/Warn Agere GenElec JPMorgCh Nacte(N) If	675971 367005 365134 344166 303506 286809 279770 148295 146978	3.71 24.44 27.16 17.15 18.93 1.36 37.48 38.25 3.78	09 +.30 +.07 +.86 +.45 15 +.79 +.62 +.02	SPDR SemiHTr iShJapan DJIA Diam iShRs2000 WheatR g BernaGold SP Engy DHB Inds	52098 35842	120.37 32.58 10.16 106.45 127.58 3.34 3.13 36.18 19.09	+1.02 +.09 +.09 +.07 +1.38 +.05 +.03 +.63 +.75	Oracle SiriusS Microsoft Nasd100Tr Intel Cisco Peoplesoft NextelC Convent	563884 542758	14.63 8.04 27.25 40.28 22.63 19.27 26.42 29.99 1.87	+1.35 +.45 +.17 +.35 +.07 15 +2.47 +.23

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Ch
Hiant Technosystem		17	66.45	+.64	+15.0
rmor Holdings		30	46.24	+1.64	+75.1
Boeing	1.00	15	52.67	+.25	+25.1
Computer Sciences	-	19	57.25	+1.48	+29.4
ingineered Sup Sys	.04	22	54.95	+1.05	-3
General Dynamics	1.44	18	107.69	+1.19	+19.1
Seneral Electric	.88	24	37.48	+.79	+21.0
tallihurton	.50		18.84	+.37	+49.
Sarris Corp.	.48	29	63,48	38	+67.
/lied Signal	.83	22	36.45	+1.14	+9.1
-3 Communications	-40	22	74.85	+ 94	+45
ockheed Martin	1.00	22	60.40	+.95	+17.5
forthroG s	.92	20	56.80	+.85	+18.0
Raytheon	.80	45	39.72	+.37	+32.3
lockwell Intl.	.66	21	46.56	+.05	+30.1
egua Corp.		37	60.99	+.49	+24
exas Instruments	.10	24	23.69	+.06	-19.
extron Inc.	1.40	32	73.60	+.46	+29.1
Inited Technologies	1.40	19	102.87	+1.84	+8.



### **EXCHANGE RATES**

ing a big fuss

British pound	\$1.98
Jananese ven (Dec. 16)	102.00
South Korean won (Dec. 15)	1.029.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	<b>S</b> 1.926
Canada (Dollar)	1.228
Denmark (Krone)	5.26
Egypt (Pound)	6.2251
Euro\$1.3	314/0.7511
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7751
Hungary (Forint)	185.01
Iceland (Krona)	61.63
Israel (Shekel)	4.3573
Japan (Yen)	104.73
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	5.81
Norway (Krone) Philippines (Peso)	56.31
Saudi Arabia (Rival)	3.59
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6456
South Korea (Won)	1.061.70
Switzerland (Franc)	1.09

Switzerland (Franc)

Thailand (Bah1)

Th

### PRECIOUS METALS

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	
3-month bill	
30-year bond	4.82
Sources: The Associated Pres:	s, Bank of

## ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

### Office party networking

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK - Office parties and other social events during the holidays can be excellent opnortunities for networking

But networking during the holidays can be quite different from making contacts during the rest of the year, says career coach Robin Ryan, author of "What to Do With the Rest of Your Life.

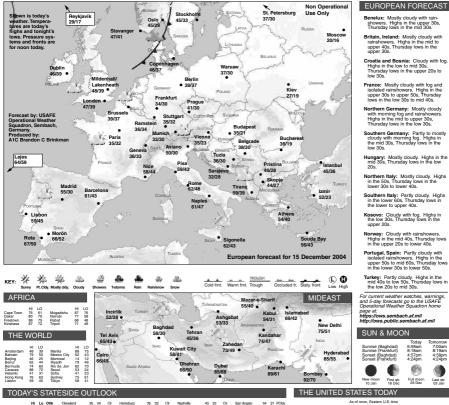
Networking at holiday events is more informal because people are primarily there to have fun. Don't expect to land vourself a new job by the end of the year, Ryan says. Keep your advances light and chatty. Ask, "Would it be OK if I called you after the first of the year?

For the currently unemployed, don't let embarrassment about not having a job keep you from attending social events and networking. If people ask you what you do, simply tell them you'll be making a career move in the new year

Limit your drinking. Have at most one or two drinks over the course of an evening, "Alcohol does not make you more social, and it can cost you a job," says Ryan. "People will think of you, 'Great for a party, but not great as an employee.' "New contacts aside, keep in mind that at office parties your bosses also will be

Dress appropriately. Remember that you're looking to advance your career, not derail it. Ladies, "don't pick the lowest-cut, sexiest thing you own," advises Ryan. You want to come across as professional, and sex-kitten apparel won't earn you brownie points with anyone. Gentlemen, "don't be a slob." Pick slightly dressier attire than vou would normally wear to

Mingle. Don't spend the entire party tracking down people you already know or people you want to talk with. By excluding or snubbing people, you might miss out on fun - or some unexpected networking connections.



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Select safe toys with protective gear Keep burning candles out of children's reach Turn lights off when you go to bed Don't overload outlets or transformers \* \* . .

## Give the gift of this holiday season! \*

Clay

### U.S. ARMY IN EUROPE

Choose a fresh or fire-resistant artificial tree Decorate the tree with children in mind Make sure smoke alarms are operative

688 8

Keep alcohol and poison plants away from children

PAGE 18 STARS AND S

### **UVA** investigation

VA RICHMOND — Federal education officials are investigating a complaint that the University of Virginia's undergraduate admissions policy discriminates against white applicants

The complaint was filed after the Charlottesville university denied admission to a white male student from York for a spot in the fall 2003 incoming class

"Many kids with far less qualifications had already been accepted to the university in the name of diversity," the student's father said in the complaint. "If my son had been a girl or a minority with his grades, test scores and extracurric ular activities he would have been admitted to the University on his own with no problem.

U.Va. spokeswoman Carol Wood declined to discuss the investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's civil-rights office. She said, however, that diversity is just one of many factors the university uses in determining admission.

### Stopping meds blamed

MN MINNEAPOLIS — When the Rev. Joe Roberson heard that his grandson was accused of running the streets naked and scuffling with police, he had a good guess at what happened.

"I believe he just quit taking his medications," Roberson said about his grandson, Michael Porter, 19, who was seriously injured when a police dog bit him in the gmin

Porter, who remains in serious condition, was eventually subdued with a Taser gun.

Roberson said Porter had been taking medication to help him cope with his father's unexpected death about two years ago. Porter has been charged with four counts of felony assault and gross misdemeanor assault. He is accused of wandering through Minneanolis streets, sometimes wearing only a robe, at other times wearing nothing.

### **Expensive legal fees**

VA CHESAPEAKE city's successful defense of lawsuits accusing officials of failing to warn pregnant women about a harmful byproduct in Chesapeake tap water totaled \$2.4 million, according to documents released by the city.

All but \$300,000 went to pay two law firms: Williams Mullen, which has offices in Virginia Beach, and Breeden, Salb, Beasley & Duvall of

The firms began defending the city four years ago against hundreds of individual civil suits that collectively were seeking an esti-mated \$1.8 billion from the city. The cases never made it to trial.

Last month, the Virginia Su-preme Court ruled that Chesapeake was immune from such law-

### Fire on the set

TUCSON — A fire broke out on the set of a TV movie being filmed at the Tucson Conver tion Center, injuring five people



## ROUNDUP

and forcing the evacuation of thousands arriving for a concert in an-other part of the building.

The fire started on the set of ABC's "Desperation," written by horror writer Stephen King. It damaged the set, made to look like a mine shaft, but not the convention center.

Three people were injured by falling debris and received firstand second-degree burns on their faces and hands. They were taken to hospitals. Two others were treated for smoke inhalation, according to fire officials.

The cause of the fire was under

investigation.

### **Program losing money**

WY CHEYENNE — The University of Wyoming's family practice residency programs in Casper and Cheyenne are losing \$1 million a year and do not offer high enough pay to attract top quality applicants. UW President Philip Dubois told a legislative committee. Dubois is asking lawmakers for about \$2.5 million to help the programs.

### Bare-bones crossing

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration proposed abandoning an expensive suspension design for the eastern stretch of the Bay Francisco-Oakland



Christmas plunder Philip J. VanVleet, left, and his father, Phil C. VanVleet, of Hannawa Falls, N.Y., pull their Christmas tree out of the woods after it was cut fresh at the Van deWater tree farm in Canton, N.Y. Bridge in favor of a plainer, cheaper concrete skyway.

"We need a safe bridge completed as soon as possible at a reasonable cost," said Sunne Wright McPeak, secretary of California's Business, Housing and Transportation Agency. "This is a time of very constrained resources for the state of California.'

The bare-bones skyway design could shave between \$300 million and \$400 million off a project whose price tag ballooned from \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion, Mc-Peak said. She predicted the bridge could be completed by 2011 or 2012

At issue is a 2,100-foot stretch of the bridge's eastern span that will connect Yerba Buena Island to a 1.5-mile-long concrete skyway al-ready under construction.

### Man gets 6 years in iail

MD BALTIMORE — A judge ordered a six-year prison sentence for a man who shot and killed a 15-year-old boy who was allegedly trying to steal a bicycle from the man's home.

Edward Day, 57, tearfully told Baltimore Circuit Judge John Glynn that he did not intend to shoot David Stewart with a double-barrel shotgun in the July 2002 incident.

Glynn sentenced Day to 13 years in prison, suspending all but six years. Day will get credit for having served two years and five months, mostly in home confine-

Day had pleaded guilty to manslaughter and a weapon charge in the fatal shooting. Prosecutor Wes Adams described the shooting as an act of "impulsive, angry, intentional behavior."

Defense attorney Kenneth Ravenell argued for leniency, describing Day as a Vietnam veteran who was hadly affected by his time in

### **Grant money returned**

MO KANSAS CITY — An agency that runs Head Start for thousands of low-income preschoolers with an \$18 million federal grant has relinquished the funds after audits revealed the agency was millions of dollars in debt, officials said.

Without the Head Start component of its \$28 million budget. KCMC Child Development Corp. - which also provides nutrition, day care and summer school programs with other funding - probably will have to close, the agency's board chairman said

### Stirred about shaking

CT SOUTHBURY - No matter what the deal, don't expect this city official to shake on it. First Selectman Mark Cooper

held a news conference to announce that he won't be shaking hands with anyone until flu season is over sometime next year.

Cooper said if anyone offers their hand, he will politely decline and give them a brochure on how to stay healthy this winter. He says he wants to set an example by limiting his contact with people.

"Flu season has started, and I don't want to pass along those germs," he said.

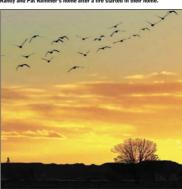


Braving the winter of Kalispell, Mont.

Snow rests on thick canvas coats worn by merino sheep in a field west



Spencer, Wis., firefighter Derek In the line of duty Griepentrog works on the roof of Randy and Pat Klimmer's home after a fire started in their home



Taking flight Arena in Miles City, Mont.

Geese take flight at sunset above the Miles Community College Rodeo



Wild imaginations Kindergartners, from left, Kieara Bryant, Asia Woodley, Cheyanne Ainesmations to ride the Polar Express down a hill at Esenhower Elementary School in Independence, Kan.



Cookie monsters

First-grader Cady Thomas slides a reindeer cookie to a classmate to be completed as Cameron DeKuiper works on the deer antlers in Ludington, Mich.



Best kind of delivery
Nallis Air Force Base near Las Vezas.

Air Force Pave Hawk crewmember Staff Sgt. Leonardo Cruz starts unloading a delivery of toys for the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program at

#### | Doctor indicted

DALLAS — A doctor under investigation for as many as 11 patient deaths was indicted on three felony counts of prescribing drugs without a medical purpose, prosecutors said.

Several patients of Dr. Daniel Maynard, ranging in age from 29 to 62, died of drug overdoses, toxic effects of mixed drugs and congestive heart failure, authorities have

Maynard wrote nearly 55,000 prescriptions in 2002, records show.

That year he wrote more prescriptions for the sedative diazepam than any other Texas doctor, and the second-most prescriptions for Tylenol with the narcotic codeine, according to the records.

A spokeswoman for the Dallas County district attorney's office said the investigation of Maynard was continuing.

Police raided the osteopath's Dallas home and clinic in October 2003 to size patients' records. The state medical board stripped Maynard of his license to practice a few days later.

### **Drought fears eased**

DENVER — The state appears to be bouncing back from a five-year drought, thanks in part to above-average snowpack that has been good news for farmers and skiers alike.

"I think it is too early to say the drought is over. But now I would bet against it becoming a 10- or 20-year drought," federal climatologist Klaus Wolter said.

The Upper Colorado River basin was at 110 percent of average; the South Platte, a major source of water for Denver and northeast Colorado, was at 112 percent, and the Yampa-White River basin in northwest was at 111 percent.

Even the hardest-hit part of Colorado, in the southwest, is improving.

### Drugged moms bill

LEBANON — State Rep. Jeff Thompson and State Sen. Jeff Drozda are sponsoring a bill that would allow prosecutors to charge women who are on drugs while giving birth and pass the narcotic to their babies.

Currently, authorities can only ask a judge to remove the child from the home. Thompson said he'd like to see the crime become a felony, but the bill would be easier to pass through the legislature as a misdemeanor.

### Reward value raised

NEW HAVEN — The reward for a key suspect in a 1983 Wells Fargo robbery was raised to \$1 million, the FBI said. The agency is seeking Victor Manuel Gerena, a former Wells Fargo guard accused in the \$7 million armored car robbery in West Hart-ford. The robbery was allegedly carried out by 16 members of a Puerto Rican nationalist eroun.

### Man burned in home fire

OWENSBORO — Henry Head Jr., 41, was treated for severe burns after a fire at his home, where investigators found items used for meth-making. Daviess County sheriff's Detective Bill Thompson said investigators

found material often used for manufacturing methamphetamine. Head already pleaded guilty to first-degree possession of a controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine in September.

#### Water protection

MONTPELIER — Two environmental groups want special protection for more than 60 bodies of water in the Green Mountain National Forest, but the requests are generating opposition.

The state Natural Resources Agency, representatives of the timber and ski industries and the U.S. Forest Service say they're not sure the extra protection is necessary.

"We're really surprised at the level of opposition, that there isn't more support," said Jamey Fidel of the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

The council and the Conservation Law Foundation are advocating for stronger conservation promises on the lakes, ponds, brooks and wetlands.

### Metro budget plan

DC WASHINGTON—For the transit agency's history, Metro management unweited a budget plan that tops SI billion. The budget does call for a considerable payment increase freders' fares, but does call for a considerable payment increase from jurisdictions served by Metro. General Manager Richard Constant of the growth of the property of the payment of the property of

### Death investigated

PHOENIX — Kevin Keogh, the city's longtime finance director, died after apparently falling or jumping from a moving car. Winnesses told police that Keogh, SO, climbed onto the top of his moving harmone of the control was set at about 50 mph.

#### Church consolidation

LE MARS — A shortage of priests will force six Roman Catholic Churches to consolidate into one central parish in Le Mars. The six current churches would close after the construction of a new church that may seat 1,000. All four priests currently serving the churches have endorsed the proposal. The consolidation allows for two priests to serve the new parish.

### Harbor spill

MA BARNSTABLE — A man suffered a fatal heart attack while refueling a ferry, resulting in a spill that dumped nearly 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel into Hyannis Harbor, a Coast Guard official said.

The man was gassing up the Grey Lady, a high-speed ferry operated by Hy-Line Cruises between Cape Cod and Nantucket.

According to Chief Petty Officer David Gilbert, he had a heart attack and died, but the fuel kept flowing, dumping an estimated 1,900 gallons into the harbor.

The harbor was closed and a containment boom was placed around the spill.

Stories and photos from wire services

		Undated enorte liet	AFH ings are available on the first	TS Televisio	n Scheaule orts section or AFN's Web si	te at http://mysfp.dodeedia	oed mil/	
		Opdated sports list	ngs are available on the lirsi	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER		te at http://myain.coomedia.	oscimili	
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
	Stanley "Worms at Work"	Movie ** "Born Into Exile"	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	College Basketball Illinois-	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:00 9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(1997, Drama) Gina Philips.	Di. Pilli	Headline News	Headline News	Chicago at Duke. (Taped)	Food 911	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	Two teenagers run away from	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	( <del>-</del> )	Sensible Chic	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	home and head to California.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The country of the co		Fashion File	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:48) Movie * * * "Back to	1	The Parkers	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E! News Live	The Parkers
11:30	Stanley	the Future Part III" (1990, Adventure) Michael J. Fox.	(:17) General Hospital	Arrested Development	1	·	The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:00	Dora the Explorer The beach.	Christopher Lloyd.	Headline News	The 4400 "Pilot" Mysteries and	FOX News	NBA Basketball Denver	That '70s Show	The 4400 "Pilot" Mysteries and
12:30	The Wiggles		Judge Judy	strange happenings abound af- ter 4.400 alien abductees are		Nuggets at Philadelphia 76ers. From the Wachovia Center in	Girlfriends	strange happenings abound af- ter 4,400 alien abductees are
13:00	Bob the Builder Tennis court.	Movie *** "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958, Drama) Eliza-	Today Meryl Streep; Tyler Flo- rence.	suddenly returned to Earth.	Fox and Friends	Philadelphia. (Taped)	Charmed "A Witch in Time"	suddenly returned to Earth.
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI) Blue's Clues "Environments"	beth Taylor, Paul Newman, Burl	rence.	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "Tis the Season"	Pacific Report
14:00 14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	lves.		The Tonight Show	rux and rhenus	SportsCenter	Ally Micbeal Tis tile Season	The Tonight Show
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(:03) Movie ** * "It Could	Sylvester & Tweety	The folight Show	American Morning	Sports Center	Any Day Now "The Contest"	The folight Show
15:30	Full House	Happen to You" (1994) Nicolas	Buzz Lightvear of Star	Late Show	Panicinous moning	NFL's Greatest Game	Any buy non the contest	Late Show
16:00	Pokémon	Cage. A patrolman and a wait-	The Fairly OddParents		CNN Live Today		ER "First Snowfall"	
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "The Rescue"	ress split a lottery jackpot.	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Access Hollywood	· ·			Access Hollywood
17:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	Inside the Actors Studio Jen-	Jeopardy!	Headline News	1	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Agony"	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power	nifer Connelly.	Headline News	The Late Late Show				The Late Late Show
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Coming Attractions	ESPNews		FOX News	NBA Basketball Los Angeles	The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller		Lakers at Seattle Sonics. From the KeyArena in Seattle	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	Even Stevens	Movie ** "The Princess Diaries" (2001) Julie Andrews.	The Parkers		FOX News	(Taped)	The Amazing Race	
19:30	Kenan & Kel Gilmore Girls "The Road Trip	An awkward teenager learns	Arrested Development The 4400 "Pilot" Mysteries and	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	FOX News		Andromeda "In Heaven Now	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann
20:00	to Harvard"	that she has royal blood.	strange happenings abound af-	Entertainment Studios.com	FUX NEWS	ESPNews	Andromeda in neaven now	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Degrassi: Next	(:09) Movie * * * "Austin	ter 4,400 alien abductees are	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	NBA Fastbreak NBA high-	Discovery Special: Miami	The Hot List
21:30	Degrassi: Next	Powers: The Spy Who	suddenly returned to Earth.	Headline News	Cladio D Will Chepard Chillin	lights, analysis, look-ins.	SWAT Teams	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show "The Visit"	Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy)	Headline News	Good Morning America	1	First and Ten	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement	Mike Myers, Heather Graham.	The Tonight Show		Your World With Neil Cavuto	NFL Live	Seinfeld	1
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Sand-	Movie ★★% "The Cable Guy"			Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	The Daily Show	1
23:30	castles"	(1996) Jim Carrey.	Late Show			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
				THURSDAY, DECEMBER				
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie ** s "The Ca- ble Guy" (1996) Jim Carrey.	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power "Rocket Girls"		Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News			Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(12:49) Movie ** s "Point Break" (1991) Patrick Swayze	NBA Basketball Portland Trail Blazers at Cleveland Cavaliers	Boohbah (EI) Wheel of Fortune	ABC World News Tonight	ND CO.	The Amazing Race	Boohbah (EI) Wheel of Fortune
1:30	Rugrats Even Stevens	An FBI agent infiltrates Califor-	From Gund Arena in Cleveland.	Dr Phil	CBS Evening News The NewsHour With Jim	NBA Shootaround	Andromeda "In Heaven Now	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	Kenan & Kel	nia's surfing subculture.	(Live)	Dr. Pilli	Lehrer	tons at New York Knicks From	Andromeda in neaven now	DI. PIIII
3:00	Gilmore Girls "The Road Trip	Movie + + x "The Princess	ł	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	Madison Square Garden in	Discovery Special: Miami	Oprah Winfrey
3:30	to Harvard"	Diaries" (2001) Julie Andrews.	ESPNews		,	New York. (Live)	SWAT Teams	
4:00	Degrassi: Next	An awkward teenager learns that she has royal blood.	NFL Live	NBC Nightly News	Headline News		Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:30	Degrassi: Next		ESPNews	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report	NBA Basketball Utah Jazz at	Seinfeld	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(:09) Movie ** * "Austin	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Phoenix Suns. From America West Arena in Phoenix. (Live)	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30		Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy)	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light		West Arena III Priderio, (Live)	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends Lost cat.	Mike Myers, Heather Graham.	Headline News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live		Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital
6:30	Blue's Clues (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio Jen-	Headline News Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	SportsCenter	TIPical Mary Ellen The View	Legend of Tarzan
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI) Bob the Builder	inside the Actors Studio Jen- nifer Connelly	Bear in the Big Blue House	Larry King Live	Newsnight with Aaron Brown	SportsCenter	The view	Aaahh! Real Monsters
8:00	The Wiggles "Haircut"	Coming Attractions	Boohbah (FI)	Rocko's Modern Life	BET Nightly News	Inside the NFL	Emeril Live	Sabrina, the Animated Series
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	In the Mix	Tavis Smiley	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Emerii Erre	In the Mix
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Cruel Justice" (1999	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	College Basketball DePaul at	Nigella Bites Christmas	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Drama) A Martinez, Nicki Lynn		Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News	Northwestern. (Taped)	Recipes for the holiday season.	Headline News
10:00	Arthur Baby Kate arrives. (EI)	Aycox, Mimi Kuzyk.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:45) Movie ★★★% "The	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			Style Star	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Shawshank Redemption" (1994) Tim Robbins, Morgan		Two and a Half Men	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E! News Live	Two and a Half Men
11:30	Stanley	Freeman, A mild-mannered	(:17) General Hospital	Will & Grace			The King of Queens	Will & Grace
12:00	Dora the Explorer	banker is sent to prison for	Headline News	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "XX"	60 Minutes	NBA Basketball Orlando Mag- ic at San Antonio Spurs. From	That '70s Show	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "XX"
12:30	The Wiggles "Lily"  Bob the Builder	murder. Movie **s"The Juror"	Judge Judy Today Kate Beckinsale.	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Fox and Friends	the SBC Center in San Antonio.	Girifriends "Inherit the Lynn" Charmed "Sam I Am"	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-
13:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	(1996, Suspense) Demi Moore,	loday kate Beckinsale.	tion "Bad to the Bone"	Fox and Friends	(Taped)	Charmed 'Sam I Am'	tion "Bad to the Bone"
13:30	Blue's Clues "Shy"	Alec Baldwin.		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "Love on Holiday"	Pacific Report
14:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	(:45) Movie ★★5 "A Very	ł	The Tonight Show	TOX BING T HERIOS	SportsCenter	Ally incodes core difficility	The Tonight Show
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	Brady Sequel" (1996) Shelley	Legend of Tarzan		American Morning	7,	Any Day Now 'This Is Not	
15:30	Full House	Long. A con artist enters the lives of the squeaky-clean clan.	Aaahh! Real Monsters	Late Show	1	NASCAR Year in Review	Foreplay, This Is War"	Late Show
16:00	Pokémon		Sabrina, the Animated Series		CNN Live Today		ER "Next of Kin"	
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Coming Attractions	In the Mix	Access Hollywood	1	NBA Fastbreak	1	Access Hollywood
17:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	Showbiz Moms & Dads	Jeopardy!	Headline News		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Scrambled"	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	The Late Late Show				The Late Late Show
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Ebert-Movies	Destinations		FOX News	NFL Live	The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	60 Minutes	NBA Basketball Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns. From America	Everybody Loves Raymond Summerland 'To Thine Own	Dennis Miller
19:00	That's So Raven All That	Movie *** "Being John Malkovich" (1999) John Cu-	Two and a Half Men Will & Grace	Countdown With Keith Olber-	bu minutes	West Arena in Phoenix.	Summerland "To Thine Own Self Be True"	Countdown With Keith Olber-
19:30	7th Heaven "I Love Lucy"	sack. A street puppeteer discov-	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	FOX News		The Practice 'Down the Hatch'	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann
20:00	ran meaven i cove cody	ers a portal to the actor's brain.	tion "XX"	Entertainment Studios.com	I OA NEWS	ESPNews	THE FIREBURE DOWN IN HARCH	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(:05) Movie * * "Blast From	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	NFL Total Access	48 Hours Mystery	The Hot List
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	the Past" (1999, Comedy)	tion "Bad to the Bone"	Headline News	Occusio D Milli Glieberg Stillfill	L IVIBI ALLEGO	To myotery	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	Brendan Fraser, Alicia Silver-	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	First and Ten	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement	stone, Christopher Walken.	The Tonight Show			NFL Live	Seinfeld "The Slicer"	1
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Venice"	Movie *** "Bad Boys"	1 -		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	The Daily Show	1
			Late Show	1	I		Blind Date	1
23:30		(1993, Diama) martin Lawrence.	Late Snow			Pardon the interruption	Billiu Date	



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### **FACES**

### Winfrey, Cruise host Nobel concert

Oprah Winfrey didn't have to think twice when she was asked to host this year's Nobel Peace Prize Concert with Tom Cruise.





The concert, in Oslo, Norway, was held to honor Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai. The show was broadcast live in more than 100 countries and featured musical artists such as British teen soul singer Stone, opera vocalist Andrea Bocelli, jazz singer Diana Krall, and pop singers Cyndi Lauper and Patti





Dec. 23 by E! Entertainment Television

### Regis Philbin to sub for Dick Clark

Regis Philbin will fill in as host of ABC's "New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005" for Dick Clark, who suffered a mild stroke last week, the network announced Monday

Philbin, co-host of the syndicated "Regis & Kelly," has made subbing for ailing entertainers something of a specialty, coming to David Letterman's aid when Letter-

man was ill in 2000 and 2003. Clark, 75, remains hospitalized following his stroke, spokesman Paul Shefrin said, but is "getting better every day?

In a statement, Clark said his doctors advised against the New Year's Eve duties, saying it was too soon.

Philbin will be joined by singer Ashlee Simpson, who's hosting the West Coast part of the show. Besides Simpson, performers include Big &

Rich, Ciara, Earth, Wind & Fire, Good Charlotte and

Billy Idol.

### Wax nativity scene attacked

A waxwork nativity scene that features soccer star David Beckham and his pop star wife, Victoria, as the parents of Jesus has been damaged in an attack, Madame Tussauds London museum said Monday The museum piece, which has drawn criticism from

Christian leaders who say it's disrespectful, was damaged Sunday when a male visitor pushed over the figures

of the Beck hams bening out museum spokeswom-Diane Moon said.

The exhibit had been closed

off and police and mu were inves

Wax nativity at Madame Tussauds

tigating security footage to track down the vandal, Moon

The nativity features was representations of (in photo, from left) actors Samuel L. Jackson, Hugh Grant and Graham Norton dressed as shepherds, the Beckhams as Joseph and Mary, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, The Duke of Edinburgh and President Bush as the Three Wise Men and singer Kylie Minogue as the angel. Stories and photos from The Associated Presi



Supermodel Heidi Klum is host and executive producer of "Project Runway," a new series on Bravo. The show promises to pick the next big thing among a group of aspiring designers.

# Labor of love

## Heidi Klum is giving back to fashion, modeling world with 'Project Runway'

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I wanted to

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a chance who

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have had it.

'Project Runway' host and

Heidi Klum

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL The Associated Press

eidi Klum got her start in fashion through a German modeling contest and now she's returning the favor: She is the host and executive produc-er of "Project Runway," Bravo's new TV series that promises to pick the next hot fashion designer.

"I had a soft spot to do this, I wanted to give someone a chance who might not have had it," she says.

After 11 years in the business, Klum says she knows the fashion playing field isn't necessarily even. 44I had a soft

"Look at Zac Posen. He had a huge break ecause he knew some people to get in. He's so talented and he thinks so innovatively, but there probably are a lot of Zac Pos-ens around," Klum says.

(Posen, at 23, won the Council of Fashion Designers of America award for emerging talent earlier this year.)

"Project Runway," which follows 12 con-testants through a series of fashion challenges, is more of a documentary than a reality show, according to Klum. Most of the episodes were shot in advance but the three finalists will have a runway runoff during New York Fashion Week in February.

"We're going to show the public what it's like to be a designer. I think people will be interested to see what it's really like, how

talented designers are. What we're looking for is who is talented, not who is the funniest, not who is good looking," Klum explains.

The judges should be able to spot talent. The roster in-cludes Michael Kors, whose upcoming spring 2005 collection has already enjoyed glowing reviews; Nina Garcia and Anne Slowey from Elle magazine; Constance White, style director for eBay; and Klum, who has worn designer duds in almost every major fashion magazine in the world.

As a model, it's her job to wear whatever is thrown at her, but Klum, 31, says some of the outfits she's worn for photo shoots are hardly her taste. "For the cover of Time (Style & Design), I looked like Tweety Bird. We needed in structions on how to put the dress on, but those things have to be there in fashion so we have something to talk about. If everything was a black spaghetti-strap dress, fashion would be boring."

The task for the "Project Runway " participants is to balance creativity, quality and salability, all in a limited amount of time and with minimal resources

Daniel Franco, a 32-year-old from Los Angeles, says, win or lose, having his designs on TV is the best marketing tool he could have imagined - even better than the hallowed pages of Vogue, Harper's Bazaar or Elle.

"Fashion programs allow designers to get their personalities out there and that's what people are buying. The Midwest seems to relate to personality and hopefully if they like your personality, they'll buy your clothes," Franco savs

Franco, who has studied fashion for six years, including creating his own master's program at Otis College of Art and Design, describes his look as somewhere between designer ready-to-wear and couture.

"If David Bowie's music were fashion designs they'd look like mine. They're a look into the future; they're innovative, very conceptual, a slender aesthetic for the modern athletic body," he says.

The aspiring designers featured on "Project Runway" aren't quite amateurs — Franco, for example, has been featured on Jane Pauley's talk show twice as a fashion expert - but they are still searching for their big break. The prize of having their designs photographed for Elle by publication director and shutterbug Gilles Bensimon and getting \$100,000 in seed money and a mentorship from Banana Republic would go a long way toward achieving that goal

executive producer But just because they're on television and hung out with Klum and Kors, don't expect someone like Wendy Pepper, a 40-year-old mother, to go Hollywood

- or even New York. "I'm going to stay in Middleburg (Va.). I have my own shop here and my basic operations will always stay here. I will work elsewhere but my child is in school here so we're

staying," Pepper says Her experience on the show, however, is helping her run her existing clothing business better.

"I saw that you need to exude confidence and have vision. I had been able to coast along in a little town where everyone knew what I did and I've made a living in fashion for 20 years," Pepper says. She also learned that to be famous in fashion, you need to

be able to convince someone that they're buying into a bigger picture, not a single garment. "It's all about reputation, and you need to be consistent," she says.

The time limits were the biggest thimble in her side during the taping and she says not all of her pieces turned out the way she would have liked. "You're looking at something that's falling apart and being held together by Velcro and staples, but you need to sell it as the most beautiful thing you've ever seen." Pepper says with a laugh.

### **Horoscope**

Venus is packing up her Louis Vuitton bags as she prepares for her dramatic exit from Scorpio's bedroom. It's the end of the affair and the start of an adventure. Our love lives reflect this departure in a subtle shift. Instead of going deep into relationships we'd rather on wide Romance now means travel

variety and newness. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 15). Determined action is easier than ever to take this year as new inspiration amps up your drive to succeed. Romance takes over your life in the new year, and you'll be making decisions based on the best thing for you and loved ones. Lucky love signs are Pisces and Taurus. A career change is in store in the spring, but make your move careful-

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The favor (sale, referral or perk) goes to the one who asks for it. You're probably pushing your luck but how else are you going to know exactly how far your luck extends? If

ly. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 32,

4. 18 and 27

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A single event has a happy outcome for several people, including you Even if you have to rearrange your schedule, spend time with your main squeeze. Stolen moments bind you blissfully together.

vou don't someone else will

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The attention you get when you apply your talent to otherwise menial tasks is enough to puff up your ego slightly! It's challenging to avoid gossip and yet still be informed as to what your people are up to.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sure, your involvement in a noble

venture is its own reward. Though you're not looking for praise, it would be nice if the people you relate to were as responsible as you are. Be a giver looking for other givers, not

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have an unencumbered channel of expression — the ideas are flowing It's part of the reason someone thinks you're foxy! Before making a move, this shy person will wait for a sign from you

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You'll dream of making your living at something new! Talk about your



aims with a Libra or Cancer. The more fiscal responsibility you accept, the more money you'll make! Turn in that rebate before it's too late

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your understanding of complexities is impressive. If someone doesn't "get" you, it's nothing to take personally. Being interested in what others might

consider mundane is a sign of intelligence!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Streamline your life by refusing to add extra work and unnecessary possessions. Simplifying things helps you unleash your creative powers, and it's full steam ahead! Your satisfaction comes from doing. not dreaming.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a super-seductive glow about you. Many people want to partner with you, and you'll have to make a choice. Keep your social options open, as one could drop off at the last minute.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Scholarly pursuits bring fabulous opportunities. Take a professional gamble, or go with a whim. Spend time with pals who have more money, clout or ambition their gains rub off on you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are at a romantic crossroads Choose the path carefully and with your heart. Make conscious choices so you don't have to reneat mistakes made unconsciously. Loved ones live up to your definition of their

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're capable, and everyone can see this, so you receive many requests. Be specific about what you are willing or not willing to give. Nothing relieves stress more than spending time with someone who adores you!

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### **Peanuts**











ump Start















"FOR-ONGE-WE-COULD-BE-COMPLETELY-OFF-THE-HOOK-NO-O1FT-AT-ALL" G1FT ??

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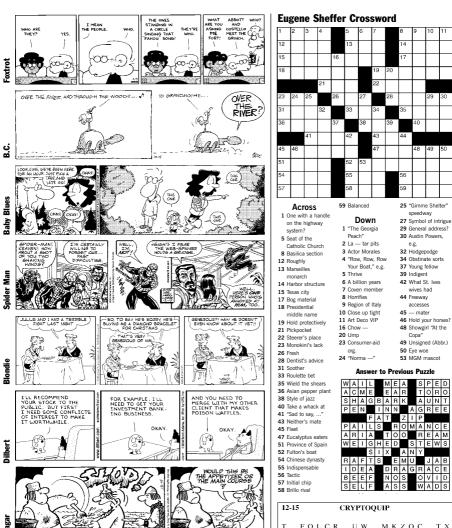








Wednesday, December 15, 2004 - STARS AND STRIPES - PAGE 23



WE NOW RETURN TO HAROLD FENSTERNICK "-THE REGULAR GUY WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS"

# T FQLCR UW MKZQC TX MC'R DTLC QKUC UKZC MFW. "IK GMFIL WKO, T'U

F D Z C F R W Q G O X X C R . "
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A LUMBERJACK

HAS FINISHED WORK, DO YOU RECKON HE MIGHT ENJOY A BIT OF LAGER? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals I

## Tour of duty is enough drama

member of the military, stationed for the past nine months in Iraq. I recently received a letter from a friend who is having problems in her marriage She has asked to move in with me when I return to the states in about three months. She says it's only until she gets back

on her feet. There's no way I can let that happen. She has too much drama in her life, and I have grown accustomed to living by myself. When I get home, all I want is peace and quiet. How can I tell her that I don't want a roommate without hurting her feelings?

> - Peace in the Middle East

Dear Peace: Be direct, and don't go into detail. Tell her that your tour of duty has been stressful - it's the truth - and that when you return home you plan

the drama in her life. Talk about the drama that's been going on in your life. You have a right to peace of mind, and your friend should not expect you to straight en her life out for her. After a tour in Iraq, you've done enough.

Dear Abby Dear Abby: I was

> and I have children finds ways to destroy

less he knows, the better. But I was falling in love with

go out in public. Mac found out and had a friend of his tell me Stan could lose his job.

Since I can't afford to move

job. I started avoiding him. It's heen six weeks and I feel I have lost the best thing that ever happened to me. Please tell me what to do.

### - Grieving in Michigan

Dear Grieving: The first thing to do is pick up the phone and contact the office of the building. Without being specific, inquire if there is any formal policy regarding residents fraternizing with

If there is a rule that forbids it. rather than avoiding Stan, I advise you to have a serious chat with him. If you both want to pursue a relationship and moving isn't an option, perhaps he should find a job with another huilding

Good maintenance men are hard to find.

Letters for this column - with you name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069, Readers can write Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/deara Universal Press Syndicate

## Unscramble these four Jumbles,

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one letter to each square.

**ETHUC** 

UPMEL

HUDOLS

ZEEWFH

to form four ordinary words.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow) Jumbles: GUILD MUSIC INTACT MARTIN Yesterday's The hot dog vendor fired his helper because Answer: he didn't - CUT THE MUSTARD

seeing someone in the apartment complex where I live. It was the staff. maintenance man. "Stan." At first, we kept it quiet because of

problems I have with my ex. "Mac." Mac together and he always my new dates - so the

Stan, so one night we decided to

and didn't want Stan to lose his

## Trouble with late-in-life relationship

Dear Annie: I am a single, successful professional woman in my 40s.

I've never had a boyfriend because I'm al ways focusing on my work

Last year, I met "Scott" while returning from a business trip. He sat next to me on the plane.

Scott was traveling with his son, a college student. I was impressed by his warm heart toward his son and invited them to join me for lunch at a restaurant. Ever since. Scott and I have exchanged letters and little presents.

Scott has all the qualities that I expect from a gentleman, but there is a problem. His children appear to be "forever" students and have no plans to graduate. I'm not even sure they have goals. Scott's love for his children is so deep that he doesn't mind their behavior.

I am not comfortable with that. I find it ironic that the same warm relationship that impressed me so much at the begin-

ning is now an obsta-Annie's Mailbox cle Scott is in his late 50s and will soon re-

tire. I am not young either, but as a never-married woman. my dream is to have a prince, not an old widower. I don't want to lose him, but I am.

— Confused in NYC Dear Confused: If you think of Scott as an old widower." please do him a favor and cut him loose. Scott may be a great

guy, but he comes with children. As their sole parent, he undoubtedly feels exceptionally protective and responsible for them. If you cannot understand and accept this aspect of his character, you will come to resent him. Searching for a "prince" is inevitably disappointing.

You might consider some additional dating experiences to make your dreams more realis-

Dear Annie: I read with interest the dilemma of "Grosse Pointe." who asked if there was a support group for the wives of

During the past several years, we have developed a loosely organized group of friends and relatives who refer to themselves as WORMs or Wives of Retired Men. We find potential members every time we go to the supermarket and see a woman being "organized" by her retired husband. We e-mail one another, and each of us tells our best retired story for the month. The one who wins gets to be presi-

The group gives us a chance to vent, without harming our part-ners or relationships, and we get a good laugh and know we are not alone. "Grosse Point" should find

dent the next month.

some friends in the same boat and have lunch once a month - Another Annie in Idaho

Dear Idaho: A good suggestion. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies Mailbox, co Creators Syndi-cate, 3717 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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### **Family Circus**



"A cookie? You should've asked for more than that, PJ."

MRA IVIS

"MY MOM SAYS YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A



just turn and shoot



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Pets

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932 Satellite Television

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ble, call 06224-928494
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Apartment Furn

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3, conv. new top, new	Auton Wented

BBW 3series '93, such as left text, nick wheels, low miles god, km, ateno. \$ 8000 obc. Call 0179-8930038 RMW 316i '93, 128km, fee www.kink.cars.de 66651564 0179-8930383 BMW 316i '93, 128km, fire engine red met., 5sp, 4 dr., am mcd. rw insp, ex cond, \$4200, call 09502-923841 Bambero

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Honda CBR 929 '00 German spec, upgrade engine 959, 196 hp, custom polished wheels power comdr, solo seat, pipe stand, cover, new tires, many extras, \$ 6,500 obo, cal 0175-2831403 or 0160-5845698

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nglish speak, child care provid-t, for late afternoons. Driver lic, with exp., avail, in Heidelbern and Mannheim area, cal erg 06221-5899948 after 1800 0171-8802235 or 0175-4578470

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Defense
Linemen — Jonathan Goddard, Marshall, senior; Dan Cody, Oklahoma, senior; Matt Roth, Jowa, senior; Ryan Riddle, California.

ienior, Linebackers – Ahmad Brooks, Virginia, ophomore; Michael Boley, Southern Missis-inni senior: Kevin Burnett, Tennessee, se-

nior. **Defensive backs** — Corey Webster, LSU, alor: Thomas Davis, Georgia, junior: Jun Rosegreen, Auburn, senior; Morgan Scall

senior. iter – Matt Payne, BYU, senior THIRD TEAM Offense

Offense Quarterback — Jason White, Oklahoma. se-

Running backs — Jamario Thomas, North Texas, freshman: DeAngelo Williams, Mem-

phis, junior.

Wide receivers — Mike Haas, Oregon State, junior; Roddy White, UAB, senior.

Tight ends — Trey Haverty, Texas Tech, se-

nior: **Center** — Ben Wilkerson, LSU, senior. **Guards-tackles** — Rob Petitti, Pittsburgh senior; Sam Mayes, Oklahoma State, senior Wesley Britt, Alabama, senior; Travis Lef

an, sophomore.

All-purpose — Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio State,

An purpose — reculating from States. Lineman — Just Defense Lineman — Just Defense Lineman — Just Defense Lineman — Just Just Just Lineman — Just Just Just Lineman — Just Just Just Linebackers — Barrett Ruud, Nebraska, semior Lolla Talugu, Southern Callorina, jun-Defenskers — Barrett Ruud, Nebraska, semior Lolla Talugu, Southern Callorina, jun-Defenskers — Mirch Meeuwsen, Orsen State, senior, Jamana Brimmer, UNLV se-Jason Allen, Tennessee, Lunnessee, Just Lineman, Southern States, Senior Senior

Monday's transactions

isville, junior. — Andrew Wellock, Eastern Michi-

### **SCOREBOARD**

### AFN TV & Radio

#### Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-College basketball: Illi-lois-Chicago at Duke (did). AFN-Sports, noon-NBA: Denver at Philadelphia (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.-NFL: NFL's greatest games, 1987 AFC championship game, Cleveland at Denver AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-NBA: L.A. Lakers at Seattle (did).

#### Thursday

orts and Radio. 2 a.m.-NBA: Detroit AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-College basketball: DeP-aul at Northwestern (dld). AFN-Sports, noon-NBA: Orlando at San An-onio (did). ts. 6:30 p.m.-NBA: Utah at Phoe-

All Times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

### College basketball

Decord Die Due

### Men's AP Top 25

top 25 teams in The Associated Press s college basketball poll, with place votes in parentheses, record 12, total points based on first-place vote through o th-place vote and last week

1. Illinois (38) 1. Illinois (38) 1. Georgia rech (12) 2. Georgia rech (12) 2. Collinois (12) 2. Colli	7-0 4-1 7-0 6-1 6-2 8-1 7-1 6-1 7-2 7-1 5-2 7-1 6-0 Marc Je 64, on 21, wich	1,664 1,426 1,397 1,339 1,152 1,016 1,007 835 764 688 630 576 543 494 424 370 333 317 222 215 Juette Oklah Florid 5 5, Onta	10 11 7 12 13 14 15 17 18 16 21 22 20 25 23 19 175, ioma a 15, e. Old
Dominion 2, West Virginia 2 Iowa St. 1, WisMilwaukee	. Ame	erican	U. 1,

### Men's AP Top 25 fared

Monday Illinois (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Val- Hillindis (9-0) did not pidy. Next. vs. var-paraiso, Sunday.
 Kansas (6-0) did not pidy. Next: vs. South Carolina, Saturday.
 Georgia Tech (6-0) did not pidy. Next: vs. James Madison, Wednesday.
 A. Oklahoma State (7-0) did not pidy. Next: 4. Oklahoma State (7-0) uru nut pray, we as at UNLV, Saturday, 5. North Carolina (7-1) did not play, Next: at Virginia Tech, Sunday, 6. Wake Forest (7-1) beat Temple 67-64. Next: vs. Elon, Wednesday, 7. Duke (6-0) did not play, Next: vs. Illigible Truesday. 7. Duke (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Illi-nois-Chicago, Tuesday. Decode (1-1) did not play. Next: vs. Pice (1-1) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Louisville, Saturday. 10. Pittsburgh (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Coppin State, Saturday. Representation of the play. Next: vs. Biog. Sunday. 11 Controller, State of Section 1, 12 Controller, State of Section 2, 12 Controller, S leáns 74:59. Néft: at Xavier, Saturday.
21. Michigan State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Delaware State, Saturday.
22. Gonzaga (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Delaware State, Saturday.
23. Maryland (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Florida State, Sunday.
24. Virginia (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Loy-ola Maryrynouri, Thursday, Dec. 23.
23. Cincinnati (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern State, Saturday.

### Monday's men's scores

College of N.J. 87, NY. Tech 80 FDU-Florham 103, Hunter 61 Geneva 72, Grove City 53 Lafayette 95, CS Northridge 89, OT Medgar Evers 73, Brooklyn 58 Moravian 93, Drew 33 Morávian 93, Drew 33 Wake Forest 67, Temple 64 Washington & Jefferson 77, Union, N.Y. 68 Westminster, Pa. 95, La Roche 89 Westminster, Pa. .... Yeshiva 74, Lehman 64 York, Pa. 81, Juniata 55 SOUTH

Catawba 97, North Greenville 71 Florida A&M 85, Southern U. 81 Goshen 83, Palm Beach Atlantic 74, OT Goshen 83, Palm Beach Atlantic 7-LSU 82, McNeese St. 79 Mississippl 87, Nicholls St, 55 Mississippl St. 74, New Orleans 99 North Georgia 89, Emmanuel 74 S. Carolina St. 77, Savannah St. 55 VMI 77, Bluefield 70 Valdosta St. 102, Carver 40

Carleton 82, Wis-1a Crosse 68
Carlaton 82, Wis-1a Crosse 68
Carlaage 73, Concordia, Wis-45
Hannibal-laGrange 81, Culver-Stockton 72
Olivet Nazzerne 129, East-West 48
Wis-Stout 70, Bethany Lutheran 46
SOUTHWEST
BOUSTON Ba

Lamar 66, Air Force 59, OT Tarleton St. 80, W. Texas A&M 63 Texas A&M Commerce 64, SE Oklahoma 50 FAR WEST Oregon St. 69, Bethune-Cookman 56 San Diego 75, E. Washington 56 Stanford 56, Denver 52

### Women's AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one

ranking:	vote and ia	at Meck :
	Record	Pts Pvs
1, LSU (45)	8-0	1.125 1
2. Stanford		1,125 1 1,055 2 985 3 928 4 908 5 906 6 875 7
3. Duke	8-1	985 3
4. Texas	4-2 8-1	928 4
5. North Carolina	8-1	908 5
6. Baylor 7. Notre Dame	7-1 9-1	906 6
8. Connecticut	4-1	826 8
9. Tennessee	5-2	791 9
10. Ohio St.	8-1	753 10
11. Michigan St.	8-1	677 12
12. Texas Tech	5-1	645 13
<ol><li>Minnesota</li></ol>	8-1	506 16
14. Boston College	7-1	450 17
15. Georgia	7-3	445 11
16. UCLA	6-1 7-1	416 18
17. Vanderbilt 18. Maryland	7-1	329 19
19. Houston	7-1	303 22
20. Purdue		
21. DePaul	6-2	260 15
22. Rutgers	5-1	220 20
23. Arizona St.		
24. Iowa	8-0	109 -
25. Kansas St.	. 5-2	74 25
Others receiving vo	tes: Arizona	46, Utan
35, TCU 30, Georgia Te mond 16, Tulsa 16, N.	cn 26, Orego	1 ZU, RICH
10, Wis,-Green Bay 7, 0	C. State 12,	VIIIanova
West Virginia 4, Chatta	noona 3 Flo	rida 1 IIII.

### Women's AP Top 25 fared

Monday

1. LSU (8-0) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Minnesota, Tuesday. 2. Stanford (7-0) did not play. Next: at Mis-souri, Saturday. 3. Duke (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Jacksonville State, Wednesday.

4. Texas (4-2) did not play. Next: at North
fexas, Thursday.

5. North Carolina (8-1) did not play. Next:
s. Georgia State at Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sun-

vs. Georgia State at Mytue peach, addy, Georgia State at Mytue peach, G. Baylor (7-1) did not play. Next: at Washington, Wednesday.

7. Notre Dame (9-1) did not play. Next: at Conday.

7. Notre Dame (9-1) du flot pray, reco. u. Marquette, Sunday, 8. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Arizona State, Tuesday, Deć. 21. 9. Tennessee (5-2) did not play. Next: at Louislana Tech, Wednesday.

10. Ohio State (9-1) beat Pennsylvania

10. Ohio State (9-1) béat Pennsylvania 70-57. Next: at Oregon, Saturday, 11. Michigan Stafe (8-1) did not play, Next: vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Sunday, 12. Texas Tech (5-1) did not play, Next: vs. Arkansas State at Las Vegas, Saturday, 13. Minnesota (8-1) did not play, Next: vs.

 Minnesota (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. o. 1 LSU, Tuesday.
 Boston College (7-1) did not play. Next: s. Saint Joseph's. Wednesday. Dec. 22.
 Georgia (7-3) did not play. Next: at ona, Sundãy. 16. UCLA (6-1) did not play. Next: at Illinois,

SAU-LANGE 10 on on play, Next at Illinois, University of the Next vs. Bry at Mailbut, Califf, Mondol play, Next vs. Bry at Mailbut, Califf, Mondol play, Next vs. Co. Be Houston (6-0) did not play, Next at Hawait Thursday. 2 did not play, Next at Next in Next vs. No. 3 buke at Indianapolis, Saturday. 2.1 DePaul (6-2) did not play, Next at Next vs. No. 2. Ruggers (6-2) did not play. Next at No. 2. Ruggers (6-2) lost to Temple 71-60. Next vs. Klemon, Saturday. l: vs. Člemson, Saturday. . Arizona State (7-1) did not play. Next: ew Mexico, Saturday. . Iowa (8-0) did not play. Next: at Drake,

Saturday. 25. Kansas State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama at Springfield, Mo., Saturday.

### Monday's women's scores EAST Hartford 65, Fairfield 55 Iona 64, Sacred Heart 54

Iona 64, Sacred Heart 54 Lehman 67, Centenary, N.J. 53 Moravian 76, Drew 68 N.Y. Tech 52, S. New Hampshi Moravian 16, urew oo N.Y. Tech 52, S. New Hampshire 44 Ohio St. 70, Penn 57 Temple 71, Rutgers 50 SOUTH Armstrong Atlantic 86, Fayetteville Charleston Southern 66, Benedict ! Delta St. 86, Central Baptist 38 Florida A&M 52, Savannah St. 48 o Hampshire 44

Louisiana Tech 62, Alcorn St. 61 Louisiana-Lafavette 85, Prairie View 24 Miami 69, UCF 50 North Georgia 60, Emmanuel 47 Augustana, III. 70, Cornell, Iowa 42 Chadron St. 100, Colo,-Colo, Springs 71

Dubuque 59, Harris-Stowe 48 Edgewood 56, Loras 55 Lawrence 74, Milwaukee Engineering 36 Michigan Tech 76, Finlandia 43 Nebraska-Omaha 76, CSU-Pueblo 50 North Dakota 96, Minn.-Crookston 65 Rockford 61, Greenville 46 Rockford 61, Greenville 46 Upper Iowa 76, Wis.-LaCrosse 73 SOUTHWEST Houston Baptist 104, Texas A&M-Interna

onal 67 Oral Roberts 103, St. Gregory's 40 Tarleton St. 70, W. Texas A&M 60 FAR WEST Air Force 67, N. Colorado 62 E. Washington 65, UC Irvine 50

### College football

### Bowl glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14 New Orleans Bowl Payout: \$750,000

North Texas ( (6-5) 6-5)
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bow
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$850,000
Georgia Tech (e-5) Vs. Syracuse
Wednesday, Dec. 22
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Memphis (8-3) Vs. Bowling Gree

en (8-3)

Memphis (S. 19-8) Evoluting Green (Internal Section 1) Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl Clinicals (S. 19-8) Evoluting Green (Internal Section 1) East Vegas Bowl Clinicals (S. 19-18) Evolution (S. 19-18) Evol Fresno State.

Motor City & .....
At Detroit
Payout: \$750,000

Toledo (9-3) vs. Connecticut (7-4)
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl

Tuesday, Dec. 28 Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La. Payout: \$1.2 million (6-5) vs. Miami (Ohio) (8-4) Insight Bowl At Phoenix

At Phoenix
Payout: \$750,000
state (6-5) vs. Notre Dame (6-5)
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Houston Bowl
Payout: \$1.1 million
Paso (8-3) vs. Colorado (7-5)
At San Antonio
Payout: \$1.55 million
te (7-4) vs. Oldahoma State (7-4)
Thursday. Dec. 20

Thursday, Dec. 30 Continental Tire Bowl At Charlotte, N.C. Payout: \$750,000

Boston College (8-3) vs. North Carolii (6-5)

Boston College (6.3) vs. North Cal (5-) Errend Boyd At San Francisco Pow Mexico: 16 Jan Francisco At San Deeg Call 17 Troy (7-4) vs. Norther Illinois (6.1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4) vs. Norther Illinois (7-4) vs. Norther Illinois (7-4) vs. Norther Illinois (8-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4) vs. Texas Tech (8-1) vs. Texas Te

(0-b) VS. Minnesota (6-5) Sun Bowl At El Paso, Texas Payout: \$1.5 million -4) Vs. Arizona State (8-3) Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn. Payout: \$1.35 million te (11-0) VS. Louisvilla (10)

Peach Bowl At Atlanta

At Atlanta
Payout \$2.2 million
) vs. Florida (7-4)
Saturday, Jan. 1
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Payout: \$3 million
(9-3) vs. Texas A&M (7-4)
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: \$2.275 million

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: \$1.5 million
Florida State (6-3) vs. West Virgi
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$5.187 million
Iowa (9-2) vs. LSU (9-2)
Rose Bowl
A Pasadena, Calif.en
Michigan (9-2) Vs. Texas (10-1)
Fiesta Bowl n roinia (8-3)

Fiesta Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. Payout: \$11-14 mill ) vs. Pittsburgh (8-: 0) vs. Pittsburgh (8-3 Monday, Jan. 3 Sugar Bowl At New Orleans Payout: \$11-14 milli

Payoutt \$11-14 million rm (12-0) vs. Virginia Tech (10-2) Tuesday, Jan. 4 Orange Bowl At Wilam Payort \$11 Payort \$11 Oridiron Classic 41 The Villagues Ela on ma (12.0)

At The Villages, Fla. vs. South East-West Shrine Classic At San Francisco

At San r. ..... East vs. West Saturday, Jan. 22 Hula Bowl At Maui, Hawaii Aina vs. Kai 7 Saturday, Jan. 29 Senior Bowl At Mobile, Ala. North vs. South

I-AA playoffs
Semifinals
Friday, Dec. 1
James Madison 48, William 8, Mary 34
Montana 34, Sam Houston State 13
Championship
At Finley Sadium/Davenport FL-1
James Madison At Finley Stadium/Davenport Field Chattanooga, Tenn. mes Madison (12-2) vs. Montana (12-2)

NCAA Div. III playoffs

**NAIA** playoffs

**AP All-America Team** FIRST TEAM
Offense
Quarterback — Matt Leinart, Southern Callornia, junior.
Punnles harts

a, junior. **nning backs** — Adrian Peterson, Oklaho Ireshman; J.J. Arrington, California, se

or, **Wide receivers** — Braylon Edwards, Michi an. senior; Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue, se

Tight end — Heath Miller, Virginia, junior.
Center — David Baas, Michigan, senior.
Guards-Tackles — Jammal Brown, Oklahona, senior. Alex Barron, Florida State, seior: Ellon Brown, Virginia, senior. Michael Munoz, Tennessee, senior.
All purpose — Reggie Bush, Southern Callornia, sophomore.

Defense

All-purpose – Reģije Isush, Southerin Cali-mina, Sophomore, Delense Ulinemen – Erzemus James Wisconsin, se-long, Southern Galifornia; Senior; Marcus Good, Southern Galifornia; Senior; Marcus Gulfornia; Senior; Marcus Gulfornia; Senior; Matt Grootogod, Southern Galifornia; Tolicor, Matt Grootogod, Southern Galifornia; Delensive backs – Carlos Rogers, Auburn, Senior; Antrel Rose, Marmi, Senior; Martin Grootogod, Southern (Frents Taushan, Senior; Michigan, Mich

Secondo TEAM offense Quarterback — Alex Smith, Utah, Junior, Ruming backs — Oedric Benson, Texas, sentor, Carnell Williams, Auburn, senior, Senior, Mark Clayton, Oklahoma, senior.

ior.

Tight end — Alex Smith, Stanford, senior.

Center — Marvin Philip, California, junior,

Cuards-tackles — Chris Kemoeatu, Utah

enior: Marcus McNeil, Auburn; junior; Dan

uenning, Wisconsin, senior; Jonathar

cott. Texas; junior,

K — Tyler (pines, Roise State; senior,

K — Tyler (pines, Roise State; senior,

nes, Boise State; senior.

— Chad Owens, Hawaii, se

Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 At Jim Carroll Stadium Hardin County, Tenn. is, Ind. (13-0) vs. Carroll, Mont.

Mary Hardin-Baylo

AUTO RACING CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY—Named Meier Semifinals Saturday, Dec. 11
Mary Hardin-Saylor 3,5 Mount Union, Ohio 35
Linfield, Ore. 52, Rowan, N.J. 0
Linfield, Ore. 52, Rowan, N.J. 0
Stage Bowl
A Stage Bowl
A Salem Stadium
Salem Va.
Mary Hardin-Baylor (13-1) vs Linfield, Ore. 12-0) Raivich director of public relations.

EVERNHAM MOTORSPORTS—Named Richard Labbe crew chief for Jeremy Mayfield's team and Chris Andrews crew chief for Bill Elliott's team. BASEBALL

Deals

BASEBALL
American League
ANAHEIM ANGELS—Agreed to terms with
RHP Esteban Yan on a two-year contract.
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Named Kennie
steenstra pitching coach for Delmarva of
the South Atlantic League.
CMICAGO WHITE SOX—Walved RHP Dan CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Waived RHP uar Wright for the purpose of granting his unconditional release. Traded OF Carlos Lee to Milwaukee for OF Scott Podsednik, RHP Luis Vizcaino and a player to be named.

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms with INF Jose Hernandez on a one-year condition.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Acquired RHP
Angel Garcia from Arizona for cash.
National League
DIAMONDRACKS—Agreed to
terms with C Kelly Stinnett on a minor
league contract. Designated LHF Shane
draw Good. Ssignment. Receased RHP Andrew Good.

Irew Good. FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with HIP Todd Jones on a one-year contract. MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Traded RHP Mar-cos Carvajal to Colorado for two minor cos Carvajal to Colorado for two minor eague players to be named or cash. Ac-juired RHP Alex Zumwalt from Atlanta to

quired NHP Alex Zumwalt from Atlanta to complete an earlier trade. MONTREAL EXPOS—Agreed to terms with FW Will Cordero on a one-year contract and OF Jeffrey Hammonds on a minor league contract. Designated OF Ron Calloway for assignment. Walved LHP Chad Bett! for the Jease or granting his unconditional relasses. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Agreed to terms with C Mike Matheny on a three-year con-

with C Mike Matheny on a three-year con-tract.

8ASKETBAIL

NATIONAL BASKEtbAIL ASSOciation

NBA—Fined Portland coach Maurice Cheeks 57,500 for failing to leave the court in a timely manner in a Dec 9 game at Utah.

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FOOTBALL
National Football League
CHICAGO BEARS—Claimed S Jason Shivers

CHICAGO BEARS—Claimed S Jáson Shivers off St. Louis' practice squad.

NEW YORK JETS—Signed G Jason Nerys to the practice squad. Released C Drew Caylor from the practice squad.

COLLEGE

APMY—Named Keyin Anderson athletic di. ARMY—Named Kevin Anderson athletic diector. BYU-Named Bronco Mendenhall football

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MINISANS IN A PRIME MARK HOS OF THE MARK HOS O STEPHEN F. AUS IM— Manieu nouce selection in and football coach.

UNLV—Named Noah Brindise offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Keith Uperess offensive line coach and Mike Bradeswashindrom—Named Typone Willingham
football coach and signed him to a five-year

### TANK MCNAMARA

THE COMMISSIONER IS BACK FROM HIS MEETING WITH BEER INC! CUTTING OFF BEER SALES BEFORE A SPORTING EVENT IS OVER ACTUALLY INCREASES FAN VIOLENCE, FANG THROW BEER CUPS ONTO THE COURT BECAUSE THEY'RE ENRAGED THAT BEER SALES WERE CUT OFF. MIDIA





## NHL owners set to counter rollback offer

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The NHL was set to make a new proposal to locked-out players on Tuesday that could hopelessly stall labor negotiations if the offer included a salary cap.

The sides resumed talks at 1 p.m. EST with the league reportedly poised to reject the latest offer by the union, which featured a 24-percent salary rollback but no linkage between revenues and player salaries. The union deems a salary cap unaccentable.

The Canadian sports television network TSN reported Monday that NHL executive vice president Bill Daly told the 30 team owners the league will turn down the union's offer made last week. TSN cited a memo from Daly to the owners.

"While the immediate 'rollback' of 24 percent offered by the union would materially improve league economics for the 2004-05 season, there is virtually nothing in the union's proposal that would prevent the dollars' saved from being redirected right back into the player compensation system, such that the league's overall financial bases would approach current levels in only a matter of a couple of years," Daly said in Siunday's memo.

The league wants cost certainty, a sys-

## Any proposal with a salary cap will widen rift with players' association

tem that will provide a direct link between revenues and player costs. The players' association might quickly break off talks if the NHL's proposal includes that.

If that happens, the NHL will be closer to becoming the first North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute. There might be a month left to salvage the season. The last NHL lock-out ended with a deal on Jan. 11, 1995, allowing for a 48-game regular season.

But the sides might be too far apart to get a season in this time. The memo obtained by TSN "cynically" questioned the motives of the NHLPA's salary rollback

"We believe the union's offer was more about trying to unify the players and ensure player solidarity with what they would perceive as a very substantial proposal than it was about making a good faith effort to reach agreement with us," Daly reportedly wrote.

The players' proposal also contained a luxury tax, a revenue sharing plan, a lower

cap on entry-level contracts and bonuses, and an offer to allow teams to take players to arbitration.

The NHL hasn't given the players' association an offer since July 21, when it presented six possible concepts to provide a framework for the league's first new collective barraining agreement in a decade.

All six were rejected by the players on Aug. 17, and negotiations that followed over the next month failed to move the sides closer to resolving the philosophical difference of a salary cap.

Talks broke off Sept. 9 when owners turned down an offer, and the lockout — in its 90th day — was imposed a week later by commissioner Gary Bettman. Players and owners stayed apart from early September until last Thursday.

Lou Lamoriello, the New Jersey Devils General Manager who is on the NHL's negotiating committee, had no comment on the TSN report other than to say, "Td rather just let things be and then wait until tomorrow." Ted Saskin, the NHLPA senior director, wouldn't respond.

"It would not assist the collective bargaining process to comment on excerpts from a leaked league document," Saskin said. "We will comment on the NHL's response to our proposal when it is finally delivered to us

"If Gary Bettman thinks the only way to do it is his way, that's most unfortunate because I think this is a very creative solution."

Even an immediate rollback of salaries for each year of every existing player contract might not entice Bettman and some hard-line owners to cut a deal without cost certainty.

"If they want to make general managers powerless to set a budget and decide what they want to do, and just have a budget set in New York that is supposed to apply to Toronto, Nashville etc., that's not going to fly with the players," Saskin said. "I know that's not a recine for a solution."

Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk reportedly told Bettman that the salary rollback offered by players wasn't enough to end the lockout.

"It's not a solution," Melnyk, who pulled the Senators out of bankruptcy, told The Ottawa Sun. "It's a one-shot deal that doesn't work."

## Wake edges Temple

The Associated Pres

PHILADELPHIA — Trent Strickland scored all nine of his points in the final nine minutes and No. 6 Wake Forest went 5-for-6 from the free

Men's
Top 25
roundup

No. 6 Wake Forest Went
S-for-6 from the free
throw line over the final
two minutes to hold off
Temple 67-64 on Monday night.

Éric Williams, who along with fellow starter Chris Paul, was disciplined for 5 minutes for being late for the team bus on the way to the game, had 17 points for the Demon Deacons (7-1), while Justin Gray added 15.

Paul, the leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team, and Williams were held out of the starting lineup for being 2 minutes late for the bus. Paul finished with nine points and eight assists for the Demon Deacons, who were coming off a nine-day break for exams.

Mardy Collins had a season-high 25 points for Temple (3-5). Dustin Salisbery's three-pointer hit the rim with one second

"Trent Strickland is a winner. He stepped up big for us on both ends of the court. We have to give him a game ball," Paul said. "He gets the emotion going for us."

In Monday's other Top 25 game: No. 20 Mississippi St. 74, New Orleans

59: In New Orleans, Shane Power scored 17 points and Mississippi State extended

its road winning streak to 13 games.

Lawrence Roberts and Jamall Edmondson each scored 14 points, Ontario Harper added 11 and Winsome Frazier finished with 10 for the Bulldogs (8-2), who have

won six of seven.
New Orleans' Bo McCalebb, who ranks
10th in the nation with a 22.5 point average, was limited to 16. New Orleans (3-4)
had its two-game winning streak stopped.



Wake Forest's Vytas Danelius, center, struggles to find room under the basket Monday against Temple's Keith Butler, left, and Mark Tyndale.

### Air Force defeated by Lamar in OT

The Associated Press

BEALIMONT, Texas
Teddy Davis' two free throws
started an 8-0 overtime run
that led Lamar to a 66-50 victory over Air Force on Monday,
Jason Grant hit two free
throws with 42 seconds left in
regulation to give Lamar a
50-47 lead. But Air Force's
Nick Welch drove in for a
layup, was fouled and completed the three-point play.

Welch scored a game-high 20 points. Antoine Hood added 13 points for Air Force (6-4). Raymond Anthony led Lamar (4-2) with 15 points on five-of-10 shooting, including four three-pointers.

The Falcons' next game is at Iowa on Dec. 28.

## BYU promotes assistant Mendenhall to head coach

he Associated Pres

PROVO, Utah — Defensive coordinator Bronco Mendenhall was hired Monday as the football coach at Brigham Young. Mendenhall replaces Gary Crowton, who stepped down two weeks ago after his

third losing season.
"I'm ready to take this program to where it should be," Mendenhall said during a

news conference.

Mendenhall and longtime BYU assistant
Lance Reynolds, who has been interim
coach since Crowton's resignation, were the
in-house candidates to replace Crowton.

BYU also interviewed Utah defensive coordinator Kyle Whittingham, but he accepted an offer to take over for Urban Meyer at Utah. Meyer took the job at Florida.

### N.C. State RB McLendon going pro

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State tailback T.A. McLendon, an injury-prone runner who never matched the promise he showed as a freshman, will skip his senior

season and enter the NFL Draft.

He scored 35 touchdowns for the Wolfpack, third-best in school histo-

ry.

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After being picked ACC rookie of the year with 1,101 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns, he missed four games as a sophomore, then struggled with shoulder and hamstring aliments this season.

### Oregon State aide hired as Army's AD

NCAA

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Former Oregon State associate athletic director Kevin Anderson is the new athletic director at Army and the first black to hold the post at the academy.

Anderson served as executive associate athletic director for external affairs at Oregon. He replaces Rick Greenspan, who left the academy in September for a similar post at Indiana University.

"I love the tradition and I love what the academy is all about — the mission of de-

veloping leaders who are not only going to lead on the field, but also lead this country after they graduate," Anderson said. Anderson will start in his new post in

Glanville interested in NMSU job LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Jerry Glanville

says he is interested in becoming head football coach at New Mexico State University. The head coach of the Houston Oilers

The nead coach of the Houston Uniest from 1985 to 1989 and the Atlanta Falcons from 1990 to 1993, said via telephone from his home in Cumming, Ga., that his first goal would be "not to be on anybody's schedule as homecoming opponent." Brian Faison, NMSU athletic director,

Brian Faison, NMSU athletic director declined comment on the viability of Glan ville as a job candidate.

### Missouri LB charged with rape

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri freshman linebacker Alvin Newhouse was charged Monday with forcible rape and forcible sodomy, police said.

University police Capt. Brian Weimer said the victim came to police Sunday, accusing Newhouse of raping her early that morning in his Graham Hall dorm room. Weimer said Newhouse. 19. was arrest-

ed at 1:35 a.m. Monday.

Newhouse was being held Monday on

\$60,000 bail.

Woman drops sexual assault lawsuit

### against Univ. of Colorado

DENVER — A former University of Colorado soccer player dropped her federal lawsuit Monday, one of three at the heart of the sex-and-recruiting scandal surrounding the university's football team.

The lawsuit, filed in January, alleged the athletic department retaliated against the woman after she talked to police about a football recruiting party where two other women say they were raped. She also claimed the department ignored her complaints of racial discrimination by her coach and teammates.

## Suns improve league-best record to 18-3 Celtics

PHOENIX - The triple-digit scores, and the victories, keep piling up for the Phoenix Suns.

The latest was a 121-100 thumping of the Orlando Magic on Monday night, improving the Suns' record to 18-3, the best start in the 37-year history of the fran-

"Their record is not a fluke," Magic coach Johnny Davis said. "They're that good. They actually put five guvs on the floor who are capable of scoring 30 points on

any given night." The Suns, the NBA's highest-scoring team by a long shot, kept the throttle down even though Steve Nash was on the bench for long stretches with foul

His backup, young Brazilian Leandro Barbosa, scored 19 points in 19 minutes.

"We've been trying to encourage him and get his confidence going," Nash said, "and tonight he was terrific.

Roundup

Phoenix has won 14 of 15 for

the first time in eight seasons. "It means a lot," Amare Stou demire said. "It's down to where I know we're not pretenders, we're

But teammate Quentin Richard-son downplayed his team's

record with so many left to play. "It's definitely a nice thing, but all of this means nothing if we start going downhill," he said. "We can talk about all that stuff at the end of the year. We've got a lot more goals than just a great

Richardson had 26 points, including six three-pointers, as the highest-scoring team scored at least 120 points for the

fourth time this season. Stoudemire added 21 points, Shawn Marion had 19 points and 10 rebounds and Joe Johnson

Nash, limited to 27 minutes, scored a season-low six points but had 10 assists. That's what made Barbosa's performance so impres-

"That's important for us because that gives Steve some rest. Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said "It doesn't make us so dependent

that we can't do without him." Grant Hill scored 23 points. Steve Francis 18 and Cuttino Moblev 15 for Orlando Dwight Howard had 18 rebounds but was

just 2-for-10 shooting. The Magic played for the second night in a row, while Phoenix had been idle since Friday.

Nash was sitting with four fouls when the Suns outscored the Magic 18-8 to go up 88-77 on Marion's two free throws with 45 3 sec. onds left in the third quarter. Barbosa scored five, including a three-pointer, in the surge, which came after Orlando had cut the lead to 70-69.

three-pointers and Nash one in an 11-5 spurt to start the fourth quarter to give Phoenix a 99-84 lead with 9:16 to go. The Magic never got closer than 13 again.

Heat 106, Wizards 83: At Miami, Shaquille O'Neal scored a season-high 40 points, and the Heat overcame the loss of leading scorer Dwvane Wade for their fifth straight victory.

Wade sprained his left ankle grabbing a loose ball with 3:18 left in the first half, and did not return. A Heat spokesman said Wade's second-half absence was "more precautionary than any-thing else."

Cavaliers 92, Grizzlies 86: At Memphis, Tenn., LeBron James had 31 points, eight assists and seven steals for Cleveland.

Mavericks 94, Bulls 93: At Chicago, Michael Finley hit the winning shot with 3.2 seconds left and scored 27 points for Dallas.

## defeat Clippers in 2OT

BY KEN PETERS The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Ricky Davis and his Boston teammates simply refused to lose.

Down by 12 points in the fourth quarter, the Celtics rallied for a 134-127 double-overtime victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night

"It showed the toughness of the guys. To come back and win is mentally tough," Davis said after scoring seven of his 34 points in the second overtime.

"[The Clippers] were shooting the ball well, but we just got stops at the right times. That's what

we've got to do," Davis added. Davis had 19 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Celtics from a 12-point deficit, then had two points in a low-scoring first overtime when each team had iust seven points.

Gary Payton scored six of his 15 noints in the second extra peri-

od to help Boston pull it out. Paul Pierce had 34 points for the Celtics before fouling out with 3:35 left in regulation and Boston

down 103-98 Celtics coach Doc Rivers liked his team's determination.

"Paul Pierce fouled out, there were just a lot of reasons why we should have gone home, and our guys just fought," Rivers said.

Corey Maggette led the Clipners with a career-high 38 points four more than his previous best.

"This is all so far a learning process," Maggette said of the Clip-pers. "We're all just learning."

Elton Brand, back from a one-game suspension, added 24 points and had 18 rebounds for

Los Angeles. Bobby Simmons had 22 points. Payton went 3-for-4 and the Celtics were 7-for-9 from the floor in the second overtime. Meanwhile, Maggette missed his

three shots and the Clippers were just 3-for-8. In the first overtime, Maggette hit a three-pointer with 48 sec-

onds remaining to even it at 116. then the teams traded turnovers and the game went to the second extra period. Davis' scoring spurt in the fourth quarter brought the Celt-ics back from a 102-90 deficit

with 8 minutes remaining. He evened it at 109 with a pair of free throws with 8.7 seconds left.

Los Angeles led 85-77 heading into the fourth quarter.

Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy tried to put some positive spin on the defeat.

"We have to use this loss to gain experience and learn from our mistakes," Dunleavy said. "There is no sense in pointing the finger at anyone. We win as a

team, we lose as a team. "We did a lot of good things, but we just had some unlucky things happen. Tonight could be one of the most important games of the year, depending on how we re-spond."

### **NBA** scoreboard **Eastern Conference** Indiana at Atlanta

L Pct 10 .500 11 .450 12 .400 13 .350 16 .304 Southeast Division 7 .696 .632 .619 .222

Western Conference							
Southwest Division							
	w	L	Pct	GE			
San Antonio	17	5	.773	-			
Dallas	15	- 8	.652	21			
Houston	9	12	.429	7			
Memphis	9	14	.391	8			
New Orleans	1	18	.053	14			
Northwest	Divis	ion					
Seattle	17	4	.810	-			
Minnesota	13	7	.650	31			
Denver	12		.600	4			
Portland	10	9	.526	6			
Utah	9	12	.429	8			
Pacific Division							
Phoenix	18	3	.857	-			
Sacramento	14	6	.700	31			
L.A. Lakers	12	8	.600	5			
L.A. Clippers	11		.550	6			
Golden State	6	14	.300	111			

Golden State Monday's gam Miami 106, Washington 83 Cleveland 92, Memphis 86 Dallas 94, Chicago 93 Phoenix 121, Orlando 100 Boston 134, L.A. Clippers Li Tuesday's gam Denver at Philadelphia New Orleans at Charlotte

Indiana at Atlanta
New York at New Jersey
Sacramento at Milwaukee
Portland at Minnesota
Golden State at Dallas
L.A. Clippers at Utah
L.A. Lakers at Seattle
Wednesday's games

Denver at Boston Miami at Washington Portland at Cleveland Minnesota at Toronto Chicago at Memphis Detroit at New York Golden State at New Orleans

Atlanta at Houston Orlando at San Antonio Utah at Phoenix Thursday's games Cleveland at Detroit Milwaukee at Chicago L.A. Lakers at Sacramento

#### Monday Heat 106, Wizards 83

WASHINGTON — Jamison 5-17 1-4 12, Jef fries 2-3 1-2 5, Haywood 2-3 2-4 6, Arenas 5-18 6-6 18, Hughes 5-22 2-2 12, Hayes 3-6 0-0 7 Peeler 2-4 0-0 4, Brown 6-9 4-5 16, Ruffin 1-1 1-2 3, Dixon 0-2 0-0 0, Profit 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 31,68 17-25

Peeler 2-4 0-0 4, Brown 6-9 4-5 16, Ruffin 1-1 1-2 3, Dixon 0-2 0-0 0, Profit 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 31-86 17-25 83. 13-86 17-25 83. 13-86 18-16 18-27 10-16 0, Diones 5-7-4 41 2, Wade 0-4 0-0 0, Butler 6-9 3-4 16, Ander-50n 1-10-0-2, Doleac 1-5-4-6, Dooling 0-31-2 1, Laettner 2-6 0-0 4, Wang 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 38-81 24-35 10-25

washington 16 18 30 21 – 83 Miami 20 22 28 35 – 106 Three-Point Goals—Washington 4:17 (Arenas 2-6, Hayes 1-2, Jamison 1-4, Dixon 0-1, Hughes 0-2, Peeler 0-2), Miami 4-12 (D.Jones 2-6, Elones 1-5, Butler 1-3), Fouled out—Hay-wood. Rebounds—Washington 50 / Inwilliance 100, Miami 64 (Orania—100), Miami 64 (Orania—100) viol. Rebounds—Nashington 52 (Jamison 10), Miami 64 (O'Neal 12), Assists—Washing-ton 19 (Jamison 5), Miami 25 (D.Jones 9), Total fouls—Washington 27, Miami 23. Tech-nicals—Miami Defensive Three Second. A—19,600 (13,600).

### Cavaliers 92. Grizzlies 86

CLEVELAND - Gooden 5-8 1-2 11. James CLEVELAND — Gooden 5-8 1-2 11, James 1-22 2-4 31, [Mgins] 6-14 3-4 11, Mgins 16-14 3-4 11, Mgins 16-14 3-4 11, Mgins 16-14 3-4 18, Newble 4-6 0-9, Harris 0-6 0-0, S. Williams 2-3 2-2, 6, Diop 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 3-78 11-16 52. MEMPHIS — Battler 1-4 2-3 5, Gasol 8-14 3-9 19, Wright 8-11 0-0 16, Watson 2-9 0-0 5, Miller 6-11 1-16, Posey 2-7 0-0 5, Jones 0-1 0-10 0, Burks 3-1 1-1, 16, Posey 2-7 0-0 5, Jones 0-1 0-10 0, Burks 3-1 1-7 0-15, Jones 1-10 0, Burks 3-1 1-7 0-15, Jones 1-10 0, Gurks 3-4-7 1, Zender 1-2 0-10 0, Mgins 3-4-7 1, Zender 1-2 0, Zende

28 21 23 20-92 21 30 22 13-86 Memphis 21 39 22 13—58
Three-Point Goals—Cleveland 5-12 (Mecinis 3-6, Newble 1-1, James 1-3, Harris 5-1, Variais 3-6, Newble 1-1, James 1-3, Harris 5-1, Variago 1-1, Memphis 6-9 (Miller 3-3, Batter 1-2,
Rebounds—Cleveland 47 (Ilgauskas 9), Memphis 42 (Wirphi 10), Assists—Cieveland 23 (James 8), Memphis 25 (Watson 7), Total
Cals—Cleveland Defensive Three Second,
McInnis, Gooden, Memphis Defensive Three
Second, A-15-516 (IB,119).

#### Mavericks 94, Bulls 93

DALLAS — Howard 7-13 1-1 16, Nowitzki 4-18 13-19 21, Dampier 4-5 1-2 9, Finley 10-20 4-4 27, Armstrong 3-10 0-0 6, Bradley 1-1 0-0 2, Daniels 2-8 0-1 5, Terry 1-4 0-0 2, Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Henderson 1-1 0-0 2, Booth 1-2 2-2 4. To-tals 34-82 21-29 94.

tais 34-82 21-29 94. CHICAGO — Deng 7-16 2-4 16, Davis 1-2 1-2 3, Curry 9-12 2-4 20, Hinrich 5-15 0-0 12, Duhon 2-6 0-0 4, Chandler 5-7 2-2 12, Gordon 6-12 0-0 14, Nocloni 6-8 0-0 12, Platkowski 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 41-78 7-12 93.

Chicago Chicago 23 23 24 23—93
Three-Point Goals—Dallas 5-17 Griley 3-5.
Daniels 1-2. Howard 1-4. Terry 0-1. Arm-strong 0-2. Nowitzki 0-3. (Chicago 4-18 (Gordon 2-5. Hinrich 2-9. Deng 0-2. Duhon 0-2.) Fouled out-None. Rebounds—Dallas 46 (Howard 10). Chicago 52 (Chandler 11). Assists—Dallas 37 (Daniels 4). Chicago 29 (Hinrich Duhon 9). Total fouls—Dallas 20. Chicago 27. Technologis—Chicago 28 (Howard 10). Deng 23 (Homes 24). Deng 24. (Proposed 24). Technologis—Chicago 26. (Proposed 24). Technologis—Chicago 27. Technologis—Chicago 28 (Hinrich 24). Deng 24. (Proposed 24). Technologis—Chicago 26. (Proposed 2 go 22. Technicals—Chicago Defe Second, Curry. A-16,191 (21,711)

### Suns 121. Magic 100

ORLANDO — Hill 9-21 5-6 23, Howard 2-10 3-37, Battle 0-1 0-0 0, Francis 5-14 8-9 18, Mob-ley 6-16 1-2 15, Kasun 3-3 2-2 8, Turkoglu 2-10 1-15, Nelson 3-6 2-3 8, Garrity 3-7 1-27, Aug-mon 1-2 3-4 5, Stevenson 1-3 0-0 2, Bradley rotals 36-94 26-32 100

PHOENIX — Richard n 8-14 3-4 19, Stoude -7 0-0 6, Johnson 7-17 2-7 0-0 6, Johnson 7-17 2-2 18, S.Hunter 3-4 3-4 9, Barbosa 6-8 4-6 19, Jacobsen 0-2 0-0 0, Cabarkapa 1-2 1-1 3, Tabuse 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 46-90 16-25 121.

66-99 16-25 17.1

Orlando

Orl

### Celtics 134.

**Clippers 127 (20T)** 

Cilippers 127 (20T)

00701 — Weish 49 1-1 10, LaFrentz

1-8 0.0 Blourt 5-17 2-2 14, Percs 12-11 64

1-8 0.0 Blourt 5-17 2-2 14, Percs 12-11 64

1-8 12-2 14, Dector 2-4 0-4 0-11 64

1-8 12-2 14, Dector 2-4 0-4 0-4

1-8 12-2 14, Dector 2-4 0-4

1-8 12-2 14, Dector 2-4 0-4

1-8 12-2 14, Dector 2-4

### Blazers coach Cheeks fined \$7,500 for failing to leave court game Sunday because of groin

NEW YORK - Portland Trail Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks was fined \$7,500 by the NBA on Monday for failing to leave the court in a timely manner after a loss to the Utah Jazz last week.

The Jazz beat the Blazers 92-87 in overtime Friday night after a crucial call went against Portland down the stretch. With 1.3 seconds left in regulation and the game tied at 78 Portland's Zach Randolph ran into Utah's Mehmet Okur as he launched a three-pointer from the top of the key. Randolph sprinted to the other end of the floor in disbelief after a foul was called, and Okur

NRA briefs

free throws. After a time out, Portland's Damon Stoudemire

received a pass in the corner and sank a three-pointer as the horn sounded to send the game to over-

#### Hornets' Garcia out for season with injured knee

NEW ORLEANS - Hornets guard Alex Garcia will miss the rest of the season because of a torn knee ligament, the latest injury to hit a team reeling with a

He twisted his left knee Sunday

against Washington and left the game in the third quarter. The tear of the anterior cruciate ligament was diagnosed Monday by the Charlotte Bobcats' team doctor, the Hornets said. Garcia had an MRI in Charlotte, where the Hornets were to play the Bobcats on Tuesday night.

Garcia averaged 5.5 points and 2.3 assists in 18.3 minutes through eight games, including three starts. He recently returned after missing seven games because of a strained left groin

Jamaal Magloire, Jamal Mash-burn, Baron Davis, David West and Rodney Rogers are on the injured list, and forward Lee Nailon missed his second consecutive

Pacers sign veteran F Curry

### INDIANAPOLIS - The Indi-

ana Pacers signed veteran for-ward Michael Curry on Monday as the team continues to adjust its suspension- and injury-depleted

The 6-foot-6 Curry, who has played in 10 NBA seasons and is the president of the players' union, started 152 games for Pac-ers coach Rick Carlisle during 2001-03 when Carlisle was coach ing in Detroit.

He averaged 2.9 points and 1.2 rebounds in 70 games for Toronto last season, but has not played

## Martinez picks Mets over Red Sox Schilling's ankle won't be ready

### New York moves to finalize deal after outbidding Boston with four-vear deal

BY RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. - Look who landed Pedro Martinez. That's right, the other team in New York. Martinez closed in on a four-year deal with

the Mets, and the Boston Red Sox resigned themselves Monday to losing the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

"He was a great member of the Red Sox team for seven years, and a certain Hall of Famer," Boston President Larry Lucchino told The Associated Press in an



free agent e-mail. "He will be missed, and we are disappointed to have lost him to the Mets and the National League.'

Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuza, told the Mets he will attempt to work out a deal with them after New York guaranteed a fourth year, a person involved in the talks said on

condition of anonymity.
"Nothing has happened yet," Martinez said from the Dominican Republic on Monday night.

For once, the Mets and new general manager Omar Minaya snatched the spotlight from the star-studded Yankees across town by mak-ing the biggest splash at baseball's winter meetings, which ended Monday with many top players still searching for teams.

There were just five trades and seven free-agent signings finalized during the four-day session, but several clubs struck preliminary agreements with free agents that will be completed later this week.

Richie Sexson and Seattle appeared to be working their way toward a deal, but the first baseman's agent, Casey Close, said Baltimore

was still in the hunt. "Nothing is conclusive at this moment. We'll have to see where this thing goes the next 24, 48 hours." Close said. "It's all specula

tive as to what people's perspectives are."

The agent for Carlos Delgado, another first baseman, held preliminary talks with the Yankees and was speaking to the Mariners, who told an agent they might try to sign both Sexson and Delgado

The White Sox traded slugger Carlos Lee to Milwaukee for speedy outfielder Scott Podsednik, reliever Luis Vizcaino and a player to be named. Four free-agent agreements also were announced, topped by catcher Mike Ma-theny's \$10.5 million, three-year deal with

Right-hander Esteban Yan agreed to a \$2.25 million, two-year contract with Ana-



Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez, left, and slugger Manny Ramirez smile during a game last season against the New York Yankees. Martinez is close to signing a four-year deal with the Mets.

heim, right-hander Todd Jones finalized a \$1.1 million, one-year deal with Florida and Wil Cordero got a \$600,000, contract from the Washingone-vear ton-bound Expos, who also agreed to a minor league deal with outfielder Jeffrey Hammonds

In an agreement awaiting a physical, second baseman Jose Hernandez agreed to a \$1.8 million, one-year contract with Cleveland. Late Sunday night, Toronto and free-agent third baseman Corey Koskie reached preliminary agreement on a \$17 million, three-year

As teams headed home, many top free agents remained on the market, including Carlos Beltran, Adrian Beltre, Magglio Ordonez, Derek Lowe, Eric Milton, Jason Varitek, Orlando Cabrera, J.D. Drew, Edgar Renteria and Moises Alou.

Among the deals awaiting completion were Carl Pavano's four-year contract with the Yan kees, a deal worth about \$39 million, and David Wells' two-year agreement with Bos-

Minava expressed confidence about the negotiations with Martinez but wouldn't detail

the discussions "The good news is that we're still in dia-logue," Minaya said.
"Every day that goes by and we are having

dialogue is a good day.

Minaya then returned to New York, and the sides will work by telephone to finalize the contract language. Cuza did not want to comment on the talks

Martinez helped pitch Boston to its first World Series title since 1918, but Red Sox General Manager Theo Enstein said he refused to

increase the team's offer in the past two days.

"We wish Pedro nothing but the best going forward both on the field and off the field, Boston owner John Henry said in an e-mail "He pitched with every ounce of his being for the Red Sox over the course of 216 games. Some of those performances were among the most memorable in Red Sox history. Who will ever forget the 1999 All-Star game? He has earned everything that he has accomplished, including his World Series ring and his reputa-

tion as one of the greatest who ever lived Martinez, 33, must pass a physical before the Mets complete the deal. He would join a ro-tation that includes two-time Cy Young winner Tom Glavine, Kris Benson, Steve Trachsel and Victor Zambrar

The Mets have faded badly since losing to the Yankees in the 2000 World Series, finishing last in the NL East in 2002 and 2003, then going 71-91 last season.

New York initially offered Martinez a \$37.5 million, three-year contract with a \$12.5 million team option for 2008.

Boston's final proposal was a \$40.5 million, three-year deal that contained a club option for 2008 a baseball official said also on condition of anonymity. The Red Sox thought the Mets' offer was for \$56 million over four years, the official said, but a Mets official said that figure was not correct

An agent who spoke with the Mets said New York's proposal was worth about \$52 million "We put our best foot forward and made an offer that makes sense to the club," Epstein said. "We think it's a fair and generous offer."

Martinez's departure leaves the Red Sox to defend their title with a rotation that currently includes Curt Schilling, Wells, Tim Wakefield and Bronson Arroyo

## for Opening Day

BOSTON - Red Sox ace Curt Schilling said his right ankle isn't recovering from surgery as quickly as he expected and he doesn't think he'll be ready to pitch by

Opening Day.

"I'm going to be late, I think, starting the season," Schilling told WEEI-AM on Tuesday.

Schilling said he had a cast re moved from the ankle over the weekend and learned for the first time that he wouldn't be able to ro tate his ankle for four to five weeks. That means he won't be able to resume throwing when he had planned.

"So I'm looking at least another month before I start throwing, which puts me a month behind he said Schilling and team officials had

expected to be ready by spring training.

The right-hander had surgery on Nov. 9 to repair a ruptured tendon sheath on his ankle. The injury appeared to have ended his seain the middle of Boston's World Series run. But team doc tors, in an unprecedented procedure, made a wall of stitches in Schilling's ankle to keep the tendon in place.

Schilling started Game 6 in the ALCS and, with blood seeping through his sock, beat the New York Yankees, Boston eventually

won the series. Schilling didn't elaborate on when he thought he might return and left open the possibility that he might be ready sooner than expected. The Red Sox open at Yan-kee Stadium on April 4.

### Winter meetings deals

Wither meetings useds

1. Pittsburgh traded LHP ArrhurRhodestrander She ArrhurRhodestrander RHP Dan Right to
Atlanta for RHP Jose Capellan and RHP
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5. Montreal signed Of Will Cordero to a 5.25 million, four-year contract.

6. Montreal signed Of Will Cordero to a 7. San Francisco signed C Mills Ma-they to a \$10.5 million, three-year con-tract.

### D-backs reopen Unit trade talks

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. - The Arizona Diamondbacks called the New York Yankees again Monday in an effort to restart trade talks on Randy Johnson. Jeff Moorad, the Diamond-

backs' incoming chief executive officer, called Yankees President Randy Levine, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity. Moorad asked if anything was

new on Johnson, but did not make a new proposal, and the discussion ended there, the offi-

New York ended trade discus-

sions Dec. 1, calling the Dia-mondbacks' asking price for the Big Unit excessive.

Arizona's last proposal was to trade Johnson to New York for pitcher Javier Vazquez, setup man Tom Gordon, pitching prospect Brad Halsey and the difference between the \$17 million Johnson is due for the remaining year in his contract and the \$35.5 million Vazquez is owed in his deal, which has three seasons left.

Johnson's agents have asked Arizona to deal the 41-year-old left-hander to a contending

### Poll: Fans want steroid users banned

BY ROB GLOSTER The Associated Press

NEW YORK - A majority of fans say players who test positive ians say players who test positive for steroids or other perfor-mance-enhancing drugs should be banned from baseball and think such players should be barred from the Hall of Fame, a poll found.

But there is strong opposition among baseball fans to erasing records held by players who fail drug tests, according to the nation-wide poll released Tuesday by Quinnipiac University in Connect-

The poll was taken Dec. 7-12, a few days after the San Francisco Chronicle published leaked grand jury testimony in which Yankees slugger Jason Giambi admitted long-term steroid use and seven-time MVP Barry Bonds said he unknowingly took sub-stances that prosecutors have

Sixty-one percent of the 865 baseball fans polled said players who test positive should be banned from the game, while 33 percent oppose such a move. The breakdown was fairly consistent

identified as steroids.

across gender - 60 percent of men and 64 percent of women supported such sanctions.

Fifty-two percent of those questioned said major leaguers who test positive for steroids or other drugs should be banned from the Hall of Fame, while 42 percent said there should be no such ban.

On the question about expunging the records of players who fail drug tests, 57 percent were opposed and 36 percent supported such a move.

The poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

## **Huskies make history with two** high-profile black head coaches

### Willingham joins basketball coach Romar at Washington

The Associated Press

SEATTLE - Tyrone Willingham and Lorenzo Romar are recognized as accomplished college coaches, the biggest reason Washington administrators are glad to have them working the sidelines.

The fact that both men are black and supervising the school's two most visible athletic programs is "a little bit extra," in the words of university president Mark Emmert.

It's also historic

Willingham was introduced Monday as Washington's new football coach, two weeks after being fired at Notre Dame. Romar is in his third season as coach of the men's basketball

Washington is the first school from a Bowl Championship Series conference to have two black men overseeing the two major sports since Temple of the Big East had Ron Dickerson as its football coach with longtime basketball coach John Chaney from

"We're delighted to have in Lorenzo Romar and Tyrone Willingham two first-rate coaches who are wonderful people of great character," Emmert said 44 This [Willingham]

hire] may be the most important hire in the history of Husky football.

> Lorenzo Roman Washington men's haskethall coach



The University of Washington chose former Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham, above, as its new head football coach on Monday. It is a return to the Pac-10 for Willingham, who previously coached at Stanford.

Willingham's hiring is newsworthy for another reason. He's the first black head coach to be fired by one high-profile football program and then quickly resurface at another.

"That is honestly significant," Willingham said. "With the old landscape, there have been limited opportunities for one to truly be able to get back into the system. I think that's a very positive Romar, hired by former athlet-

ic director Barbara Hedges, leads a basketball team that reached the NCAA tournament last spring. The basketball Huskies, No. 18 in this week's poll, are exnected to contend for this season's Pac-10 title.

Both Willingham and Romar

represent progress for blacks, but insisted that job qualifications should always mean more than skin color.

"I'm excited as an alum and a current employee of the University of Washington that our university is making progress and not using color as the No. 1 factor on whether they're going to hire someone," Romar said. "It's about who is the best qualified. Who is the best fit?

This may be the most important hire in the history of Husky football," Romar said. "You can't make it a political hire." Said Willingham: "I am proud

to be African American, but we should get to the point where that's not the focus, where it's really the body of work that a man does. I'm looking forward to increasing my body of work

Emmert and athletic director Todd Turner, who both are white said race wasn't a factor in Willingham's hire

They simply wanted the best and Willingham's name

topped their list when Keith Gilbertson stepped down after a 1-10

Emmert said the university would have used the same approach in hiring a college dean. This is the man we wanted as

our coach," Emmert said. Willingham's firing at Notre Dame, after the third year of a five-year contract, raised questions about whether he was given enough time to succeed and drew criticism from the Black Coaches Association

Willingham was one of only five black head coaches in Division I-A last season. That number dropped to two after Tony Samuel was fired at New Mexico State, Fitz Hill resigned at San Jose State and Willingham was



II.S. skier Rode Miller, above, won a men's World Cun slalom on Mon day night at Sestriere, Italy, and joined Marc Girardelli as the only male skiers to win races in all four alpine disciplines in one season.

### U.S. skier Miller runs into record book again

American becomes second man to win races in all four alpine disciplines in same season

BY ANDREW DAMPF The Associated Press

SESTRIERE, Italy - The lights were on. The Olympic course was glistening.

The setting was perfect for Bode Miller to put his name in the record book once more.

The World Cup leader won a night slalom Monday to join Marc Girardelli as the only male skiers to win races in all four alpine disciplines in one season

"I don't feel any different than before," Miller said. "These are the kinds of things you tell your kids about

Earlier this season, Miller won super-G and downhill races for the first time. He won a giant sla-Sunday at Val d'Isere, France.

"At this point, I just really eniov what I'm doing. I think being compared to some of the guys they're comparing me to is a unique opportunity," Miller said. "If you're happy with what you're doing, records don't mean as much. I think it's just fun to ski Miller covered the course for the 2006 Turin Olympics in a two-run time of 1 minute, 39.03 seconds for his sixth victory in 10 races this season. That increased his lead on Austrian rival Hermann Maier in the overall standings to 391 points

Miller's ultimate goal is to become the first American man to win the overall title since Phil Mahre in 1983.

Silvan Zurbriggen of Switzer land was second, a distant 1.27 seconds behind, for the first World Cup podium finish of his career. Kalle Palander of Finland was third, 1.41 seconds back. Girardelli became the first man

to win slalom, giant slalom, super-G and downhill races in the same season in 1988-1989, over a two-month span. Miller compiled his victories in only 16 days.

Girardelli still has the edge on

Miller, however. He also won a combined - a paper event based on the results of a slalom and downhill - that season. Miller will have a chance to match that in the first combined event this season in Wengen, Switzerland,





Mondays in Stars and Stripes

#### New Irish coach won't shrink from straight talk By TOM COVNE that being plainspoken is his gland Patriots offensive coordina-"It's not that farfetched to un-

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - Notre Dame players were taken aback the first time Charlie Weis spoke to the team. It wasn't Sunday night, when

Weis flew in to sign a six-year contract to coach the Fighting Irish. when It was last winter, then-coach Tyrone Willingham invited the New England Patriots offensive coordinator to speak to the team as a guest.

He didn't come in and tell them how great Notre Dame was

Instead, he criticized the team. which the players say was a first for a guest speaker.

his mind," tight end Anthony Fasano said. "He took it as he was one of our coaches back then.

"It shocked us. He really spoke

Weis will be dividing his time Weis told reporters Monday

"Unlike a lot of people that are

in the profession, folks, what you see is what you get here," he said. "There's no hidden agenda. There's no self-promotion; this is who I am and, fortunately or unfortunately, I wear my colors. ..
I'm a pretty straight shooter."

Weis showed a bit of a brash side Monday in being introduced to the media, showing confidence that he's ready to turn his alma

mater back into an elite program "I've been groomed under the best, and it gets you in the position to be successful when you're given your opportunity," he said. 'Well guess what folks. I hit pay

dirt. The opportunity just struck, between two full-time jobs -Notre Dame coach and New En-

tor — for up to seven weeks. But he wouldn't say how he'll do that except to say he won't be at the Insight Bowl Dec. 28 when Notre Dame (6-5) plays Oregon State

His next order of business is taking care of the players who are in place. He wants to let them all know he will be open-minded and everyone will be given a shot to show they can play.

(6-5) in Phoenix.

Then comes the more tricky business: recruiting. Weis hasn't recruited high

school players in 15 years, when he was an assistant at South Carolina. And he might not be done with the Patriots until four days after high school recruits can sign with colleges. He isn't worried. Weis figures

he's been doing recruiting of another sort — trying to convince free agents to join the Patriots. derstand that recruiting is recruit-ing," Weis said. "It's people skills and you have to be able to sell both the school and yourself. I have the utmost confidence that I'll be able to do both of those things.'

Recruiting analyst Tom Lemming said high school players will react positively to Weis. "Kids are looking for a chance

to get to the NFL, and here's prob-ably the most innovative and popular offensive coordinator in the NFL, and he's got three Super Bowl rings," Lemming said.

Weis still has to prove he can be a head coach.

"That's a big question mark," said former Irish player Mark Bavaro, who played for the New York Giants while Weis was an as-

Bavaro, who is a friend of Weis, believes he will do well.

## Sub-.500 Carolina might be best of sorry lot

ened to nine games by a strike, and the playoffs were expanded to 16 teams, including two that finished

That is the only time a losing team made the postseason. Given the sorry state of the NFC, there's a possibility it will happen for the first time in a full season this year. In fact, if the playoffs started now, the Carolina Panthers (6-7) would be the final

Dave Goldberg

wild-card team.

At least they would he somewhat deserving

The Panthers were the conference champione last season and have won five straight games after losing seven of their first eight. Right now, they might just be the NFC's second-best team, be-

hind Philadelphia, after adjusting to the loss of wide receiver Steve Smith, defensive tackle Kris Jenkins and running backs Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster

Quarterback Brett Favre summed up the NFC perfectly after Green Bay strug gled to beat Detroit on Sunday to take the lead in the North

"We should feel good about this win," he said. "But we're not good enough to feel that good

Although New England, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Philadelphia and Atlanta have clinched divisions, the jury is still out on evervone else.

Right now, the first wild card in the NFC would be Minnesota, which is 7-6 despite losing five of seven to fall a game behind the Packers. The way the Vikings usually finish — they were 3-7 after opening 6-0

last season - nothing is guaranteed. The strangest disparity the NFL had was in 1985, when Cleveland won the AFC Central with an 8-8 record.

In those days, there were two wild-card teams from each conference, and Denver



Carolina Panthers' Ricky Manning Jr., left, runs past St. Louis Rams defender Arlen Harris after intercepting a pass during the first quarter of the Panthers' 20-7 victory on Sunday.

(11-5) missed the playoffs in a three-way tiebreaker with the New York Jets and New England Patriots.

Broncos linebacker Tom Jackson summed that up 20 years ago with the bluntness that has served him well in his television career.

"The situation with us points up how unfair the system is now," he said then. "I don't think there's any way that you can have a team be in double figures in victories and have one of the best records in the conference and yet be at home when the playoffs start."

Jackson's sense of unfairness was assuaged somewhat when the Broncos ended up making the Super Bowl (and losing) in three of the next four seasons. And the Browns, who not only made the postseason that year but got a first-round bye, lost just 24-21 to defending conference champion Miami, which finished 12-4

Four other 8-8 teams have made the playoffs: New Orleans in 1990, the Jets in 1991

and Dallas and Detroit in 1999 But no better teams within their confer-

ences were left out. This year, plenty of AFC teams will go

ing than NFC teams that make the playoffs.

Right now, the Jets (9-4) would be one

AFC wild-card team, with Baltimore and Denver (8-5) battling for the other spot. and Jacksonville and Buffalo (7-6) on the outside. The Bills, who held Cleveland to just 17 yards Sunday (15 of them in garbage time) have won four straight games and six of seven since Willis McGahee be-

came the starting running back. "If we're in the other conference, I'd have some hope. But we got a little behind the field in our conference," Bills owner Ralph Wilson said.

In the NFC, even 5-8 doesn't eliminate a team. And inconsistency is the norm.

Dallas's stirring comeback in Seattle last Monday night seemed to herald a late-sea-

son playoff run with rookie Julius Jones doing for them what McGahee has done for Buffalo. Then Dallas went home and lost 27-13 to New Orleans, managing just 269 vards against a team near the bottom in nearly every defensive category. "Every time we have an opportunity with this team to do something and to

maybe make something out of our season, we revert to the kind of thing you saw today, which was a very, very poor exam-ple of how to try to win." Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said.

That's the NFC: Miami is 2-11, and its only victories are over NFC teams St. Louis and San Francisco.

Philadelphia is 12-1 and can clinch home-field advantage for the playoffs with one more victory or an Atlanta loss. But even the Eagles have had trouble with AFC

teams

San Diego's

Kassim

Osgood

spikes the

his 19-vard

touchdown

reception

Chargers'

victory over

Tampa Bay

on Sunday.

in the

31-24

hall after

Their only loss was a 27-3 pounding in Pittsburgh. They were forced into overtime by Cleveland (which is just 3-10) and had to work to beat Baltimore 15-10 at home in a game in which the Ravens were without running back Jamal Lewis, tackle

Jonathan Ogden and tight end Todd Heap. At that rate, maybe the Eagles will lose their fourth straight NFC title game — to Carolina, a team below .500.

## First postseason in decade within Chargers' grasp

BY BERNIE WILSON The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - It's been a long time since either the San Diego Chargers or coach Marty Schottenheimer were talking playoff possibilities this late in the sea-

The unimaginable can become reality on Sunday for the Chargers, who can win the AFC West based on two scenarios, or at least clinch a playoff berth under two other scenarios.

"This is a fun time to be a San Diego Chargers fan and also a player," linebacker Donnie Edwards said Monday, a day after Diego won its seventh straight game, 34-21 over Tampa Bay to improve to 10-3

Edwards, a nine-year NFL vet-eran, was still at UCLA the last time his hometown Chargers made the playoffs, in 1995. He played for six seasons in Kansas City, and only now, in his third season with San Diego, are the Chargers on the cusp of returning to the postseason. The Chargers, who have a

two-game lead over Denver in the AFC West, can win the division title on Sunday if the Broncos lose at Kansas City, which would secure a better division record for San Diego.

They can also win the West if they win or tie at Cleveland, and Denver ties. The Chargers can clinch a playoff berth if they win and Baltimore loses or ties at Indianapolis, or if they tie and Baltimore loses

The Chargers have won 10 games for the first time since their Super Bowl season of 1994, but it's not quite good enough yet to stamp their playoff passport.

"It's a very tough division," said Edwards, who sealed Sunday's victory with a 30-vard interception return for a touchdown in the closing minutes. "You can be 5-8 and still be in the hunt in the NFC. It's just different. I don't know what it is. But the AFC is a tough division and there's a lot of teams over .500 that still haven't clinched, just like us."

Providing the Chargers don't collapse like they did two years ago, they're battling Indianapolis for playoff seeding. Pittsburgh and New England have clinched division titles at 12-1 and have the inside track to first-round byes. The Colts have won their division and are also 10-3.



If form holds, the Colts and Chargers -- who play each other on Dec. 26 at Indianapolis would host the wild-card teams the second weekend in January.

Schottenheimer hasn't been to the playoffs since 1997. His Chiefs missed the postseason in 1998, he was out of football for two seasons, and he fell short with Washington in 2001 and with

the Chargers the last two years The excitement I get is about our players, our organization, our fans, because when you're able to have success and get in the playoffs, everybody shares in that, Schottenheimer said.

Although Schottenheimer eighth on the career list with 175 victories, he is just 5-11 in the postseason, with Cleveland and Kansas City, including losses in his last four games with the

His Chiefs were 13-3 in 1995 and 1997, getting a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, but were upset in the divisional round both

Chiefs

Schottenheimer said he took it for granted that his teams would be in the playoffs every year.

"I just sort of thought every vear vou're there and it's just a

matter of how far you go," he said. "That obviously isn't the case anymore in this league."

Quarterback Drew Brees and

Edwards defended Schottenhe-

imer's record "Look at Marty's career. Can ou argue the amount of wins he's

had, no matter where he has gone?" Brees asked. "He's done a great job wherever he's been. And this seems to be the year for a lot of crazy things happening. So hey, if that's the way it's been in the past with Marty, 5-11 in the playoffs, then maybe this is the year we run the table. Edwards has been in only one

playoff game, with the Chiefs following the 1997 season when Denver won 14-10 at Kansas City.

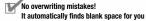
That was the third time a John

Elway-led team eliminated Schottenheimer from the postseason — remember "The Drive" and "The Fumble" in consecutive AFC championship games in the late 1980s when Schottenheimer was with Cleveland?

"That's the past," Edwards said. "This is the new Marty Schottenheimer. We're trying to forget about the days of Cleveland and Kansas City and look to the new days in the playoffs with the Chargers. So hopefully we can turn a new leaf over."



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## **Plummer faces fine for gesture**

The Associated Press

DENVER - Denver quarterback Jake Plummer probably lost more than just his cool when he made an obscene gesture toward the

The NFL is reviewing Plummer's actions under its long-standing policy that prohibits public displays of profanity, a review that will likely lead to a fine

Plummer didn't do himself many favors in a city that is already a little fed up with his performance this season.

He was a no-show in the locker room Monday, the day after a shaky 20-17 victory over lowly Miami that kept the Broncos (8-5) tied with Bal timore for the AFC's final

NFL

wildcard spot. briefs Plummer threw two interceptions. After the first,

he made an obscene ges ture toward the stands, which was caught by TV cameras carrying the game on CBS.

He apologized Sunday, saying "One guy got into my head a little bit. It shouldn't be that

On Monday, his coach and teammates chimed in

"I think Jake understands that this game is very tough on the quarterback," coach Mike Shanahan said, "You work your way through it. If you're mentally tough enough, you survive. If not, you acquiesce and you're gone

Plummer has thrown six interceptions without a touchdown in the past two games.

His obscene gesture was front-nage material in Denver and was played over and over on national highlight shows.

League spokesman Greg Aiello said the NFL's stance on profanity has not changed and the case would be reviewed under the league's long-standing policy that prohibits public displays of profanity

### Coughlin sticks with Manning

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - Despite horrific struggles in recent weeks. Tom Coughlin still believes that Eli Manning is going to be an outstanding quarterback for the reeling New York Giants.

Coughlin reiterated Monday that the No. 1 pick in the draft will start against the Pittsburgh Steelers (12-1) on Saturday, adding that giving Manning a week off to clear his head wasn't an option

"The rookie player that has this type of opportunity, and this type of experience, it is a priceless experience that does not come with-out pain," Coughlin said in a conference call as he reviewed a 37-14 loss to Baltimore.

Not only is Manning winless in four starts since taking over from Kurt Warner, his statistics are dreadful. He has completed 42 of 110 passes for 516 yards, one touchdown and six interceptions. His quarterback rating is a 33.8 percent - the lowest in the NFL for anyone with 100 pass attempts.

And the Giants have lost their last three games by at least 21 points, the first time that has happened since 1980.

#### Bengals QB Palmer questionable

CINCINNATI - Carson Palmer sustained no serious damage to his left knee, but the Cincinnati Bengals quarterback was still on crutches and wearing a bulky brace on Mon-

Tests on Palmer's sprained knee showed no tear to his anterior cruciate ligament. Coach Marlin Lewis didn't rule out the possibility of

Palmer playing Sunday against Buffalo. Lewis put the final decision on Palmer's availability off until midweek, listing him as questionable for now.

"Let's wait and see what happens," Lewis

If Palmer's sprained knee isn't better, Jon Kitna will make his first start of the season Kitna took over for Palmer during the third

quarter of a 35-28 loss in New England and looked rusty on his first series of the season. Kitna threw an interception in the end zone that scuttled the first drive, but got the Bengals (6-7) within seven points on a 27-yard

### touchdown pass to Kelley Washington with 3:50 left. The Patriots then ran out the clock. Garcia joins Browns' long IR list

BEREA, Ohio - Cleveland quarterback Jeff Garcia will miss the rest of the season after tearing a knee ligament, another blow to the battered Browns, who have lost seven straight games.

Garcia is the eighth starter and 17th player overall to be placed on the injured reserve list by the Browns (3-10).

Garcia was hurt in the third quarter of Sunday's 37-7 loss to Buffalo after taking over for rookie Luke McCown. Garcia, who missed the previous two games with a sprained shoulder. lasted just three plays before injuring his knee while fumbling as he was sacked.

With McCown struggling and Kelly Holcomb still nursing cracked ribs, the Browns might need to sign a quarterback this week.

### Shaky Chandler might start again

ST. LOUIS - Marc Bulger can't get healthy fast enough for the St. Louis Rams One day after missing a 20-7 loss to the Pan-

thers with a sprained shoulder, Bulger resumed light throwing on Monday. The Rams are aiming for him to return next

week against the Eagles.

"He's a little sore, but who knows?" coach Mike Martz said Monday. "We may have him, but I'm not going to count on it.'

That means another week with 39-year-old backup Chris Chandler, whose first start of

the season was forgettable and included a career-worst six interceptions.

The alternatives are not very enticing for the Rams (6-7). The backups are rookie Jeff Smoker, who's still learning the offense, and Jamie Martin, who's not physically ready after being out of the NFL since October 2003 before signing last week.

#### Pain threshold key for Broncos' Bell

DENVER - Running back Tatum Bell believes his shoulder injury isn't as bad as first thought and insists he could be available for next week's game against Kansas City.

Bell ran for 123 yards and two touchdowns after replacing Reuben Droughns, who fumbled twice early in Denver's 20-17 win over Miami on Sunday. But the rookie sec-ond-round draft choice left in the third quarter after separating his shoulder, and Droughns returned to finish the game.

Bell, however, said the shoulder wasn't feeling too bad Monday and considered himself day-to-day.

Denver (8-5) is tied with Baltimore for the AFC's final wild-card spot. After Sunday's game, Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Bell's injury was a third-degree shoulder separation the worst kind of senaration possible

#### Urlacher status depends on MRI

LAKE FOREST, Ill. - Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher is to have an MRI on his left hamstring this week, and his status for the final three games is unknown

Urlacher sustained his third leg injury of the season in Sunday's 22-3 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Urlacher made a brief appearance in the Bears' locker room Monday. Asked how his leg was doing, he said: "Which one?" Urlacher missed the entire preseason and

two early games this season with a sore right hamstring. He later sat out two more games after surgery on his left calf following a Nov. 14 game against Tennessee. He had played the past two weeks.

#### Seahawks lose Wistrom until playoffs KIRKLAND, Wash. - Seattle defensive

end Grant Wistrom has ligament damage in his left knee and will miss up to six weeks, though coach Mike Holmgren said he could be available if the Seahawks reach the play-Wistrom was hurt in the fourth quarter of

last weekend's 27-23 win at Minnesota. He missed four games earlier this season with a broken bone in his left knee.

Doctors will re-examine Wistrom within two weeks, when they'll determine if the iniury is healing faster than projected. If that's the case, Holmgren said Wistrom might play if Seattle is in the playoffs.

#### NFL scoreboard

### American Conference

x-New England	W	Ļ	Ţ	Pct .923	PF	PA	
N.Y. Jets	9	â	ñ	.692	260	192	
Buffalo	7	6	ō	.538			
Miami	2		0	.154	213	289	
South							
x-Indianapolis	10			.769			
Jacksonville	7	6	0	.538	220	228	
Houston	5	8	0	.385	250	312	
Tennessee	4		0	.308	269	343	
North							
x-Pittsburgh	12		0	.923	290	190	
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	270	205	
Cincinnati	6	7	0	.462	296	307	
Cleveland	3	10	0	.231	247	345	
West							
San Diego	10	3	0	.769	370	262	
Denver	-8	5	0	.615	294	229	
Kansas City	5	8		.385			
Oakland	4	9	0	.308	244	363	
M-M							



Seattle west

Seattle # 0 0 5

St. Louis 5 7 0 4

Arizona-ficion 5 7 0 0 5

St. Louis 5 7 0 0 5

Arizona-ficion 5 7 0 0 5

Arizona-ficion 1 0 0 1

Arizona-ficion 1 0 0 1

Arizona-ficion 1 0 0 1

Baltimore 37 N.Y. Galant 1

Beneve 30 N. Gala

Minnesota at Detro Seattle at N.Y. Jets Seattle at N.Y. Jets
Denver at Kansas City
Burfalo at Cincinnati
Dallas at Philadelphia
San Diego at Cleveland
St. Louis at Arizona
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Jacksonville at Green Bay
Tennessee at Oakland
Baltimore at Indianancie Monday, Dec. 20
New England at Miami

### Monday Chiefs 49, Titans 38

Kansas City Tennessee 0 14 14 21-49 7 14 7 10-38 Tennessee First Quarter
Tennesmorn I run (Anderson kick), 7:19.
Tennesmorn kick), 13:27.
Tennesmorn kick), 13:27.
KC-Kennison 58 pass from Green (Tynes kick), 12:28.
KC-Morton 30 pass from Green (Tynes KC-Morto

...... Green (Tynes Ten-Bennett 22 pass from Volek (Ander-son kick), :09.

son kick), 39.

Third Quarter
KC—Blaylock I run (Tynes kick), 10:26.
Ten—Bennett T run (Tynes kick), 10:26.
Ten—Bennett T pass from Volek (Anderson kick), 272.
KC—LJohnson 48 run (Tynes kick), 5:29.
Ten—Mason 4 pass from Volek (Anderson Volek), 3:49.

Ten-Masun 4 p..... kick), 2:26. Ten-FG Anderson 27, 1:39. KC-Kennsion 9 pass from Green (Tynes

kick), :32, KC-Mitchell 39 fumble return (Tynes kick), :08. A-68,932.

KC Ten
24 30
383 542
24-146 33-163
237 379
1-4 20
7-144 8-148
0-0 1-0
18-32-1 29-43-0
18-32-1 5-43-6
1-1 5-4
7-53-8.0 4-36.8 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards
Passing
Punt Returns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost

### Points: Bennett, Volek have career games in loss POINTS, FROM BACK PAGE Johnson said. "As soon as I got

"It's just a shame it comes like this," Bennett said. "That's about the hardest I've seen a group of guys play for 60 minutes, and for it to turn out like this is tough." It's been that kind of season for

the Titans, who made the playoffs the past two years. The Titans had gone ahead

38-35 when rookie Randy Starks pounced on Tony Richardson's bobbled handoff at the Kansas City 17, and Gary Anderson kicked a 27-vard field goal with 1:39 remaining. Then the Chiefs, who got two touchdown runs of 46 and 41 yards from Larry Johnson, surged back.

"I was excited. I was pumped."

my chance and my shot, I did ev-erything I had to do and break

Tennessee tried a hook-and-ladder play after Kennison's go-ahead TD, but Kawika Mitchell went 39 yards with a fumble for Kansas City's final touch-

"This was one of those games that just ended up being a shoot-Green said. "We were behind, clawing our way back and got in position very late in the game to get it done."

The Titans led much of the night and came back to tie it 35-35 on a 4-yard TD reception by Derrick Mason moments before Green's exchange with fullback Richardson fell to the ground.

A strong second half allowed the Chiefs to overcome Bennett, who easily bettered Denver's Rod Smith's 208 yards against Atlanta on Oct. 31. Bennett, who needed intravenous fluids at halftime, set the season high for yards with a nifty move on a fade pattern for a 7-vard touchdown early in the second half. That gave the Titans a 28-21 lead.

"I felt I could beat the DB every time," Bennett said. "I didn't feel our offense in general could be stopped."

Johnson, who has emerged from coach Dick Vermeil's doghouse with a burst, rushed for 104

yards on only seven carries in place of injured star Priest Holm-Tennessee's Chris Brown went

over 1,000 yards rushing for the season on the opening series, but he also fumbled twice. He had a 1-yard TD run before leaving at halftime with a recurrence of his turf toe injury; he gained 91 yards.

He soon was followed to the sideline by tackle Fred Miller Hartwig (finger).

Kennison also had a big night that featured a 58-yard TD reception as both defenses kept losing

track of opposing receivers.
"I don't know how many yards they got," Vermeil said, "but they got a lot."



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## **SPORTS**



Phoenix again soars into triple digits, routs Magic. Page 29

## The sign of points to come

Chiefs rally to top Titans in wild, offensive show

BY BARRY WILNER The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - For two also-rans, the Chiefs and Titans

auso-rans, the Chiefs and Titans sure know how to put on a show. A long, wild, controversial show. The Monday night showcase featured 925 yards of offense, a season-high receiving performance, a highly debatable penalty, a bunch of comebacks — and, finally, a smile on the face of Kansas City coach Dick Vermeil after a 49-38 victory. "I'm sure it was entertaining,"

said Vermeil, who scowled at his porous defense most of the night. "Some people may have turned their sets off early. I noticed that a lot of people left the game, the stands had empty seats. "Pro football is pro football.

Two teams, we were both in the playoffs last year and for one reason or another neither team is in the playoffs this year. But that doesn't mean we aren't good football teams or can't play exciting football "

Or controversial Kansas City (5-8), which won 13 games last season, was helped greatly by a phantom penalty, then got the winning points on a 9-yard touchdown catch by Eddie Kennison with 32 seconds left.

Trent Green capped a 64-yard drive in just over a minute with his third touchdown pass

One play earlier, referee Tom White called a personal foul on rookie Travis LaBoy for a hit to Green's helmet. But LaBoy clearly hit Green on the shoulder.

"I am disappointed in the performance of Tom White and the job he did officiating that game, said coach Jeff Fisher, who as co-chairman of the NFL competition committee rarely criticizes officials. "You've got to let players

One player who played his best was Titans receiver Drew Ben-nett, a former college quarterback. He had 233 yards receiving, a career high and the most in the league this season. Bennett caught three touchdown passes from Billy Volek, who threw for a career-high 426 yards in replacing the injured Steve McNair one of nine Titans starters not on hand; three more left during the

But it wasn't enough for undermanned Tennessee (4-9), which gained 542 yards and lost on a night that even featured a snow shower in Music City.

SEE POINTS ON PAGE 34



Chiefs wide receiver Johnnie Morton celebrates his touchdown catch in the second quarter at the expense of Titans safety Scott McGarrahan. Kansas City surrendered 542 yards of offense but still won the shootout.

Red Sox resigned to fact Martinez will leave for New York, but it's Mets, not Yankees Page 30





Strickland gives Wake something in reserve. picks up slack for late-arriving starters

Page 28

Owners set to reject players' offer, make counter Page 28

